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RATIVE OBJECT LESSONS

CHARLOTTE E. GRAY



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Illustrative Object Lessons

By
CHARLOTTE E. GRAY

Author of

“Experimental Object Lessons;”
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“The Inn By the Sea;”
“Out of the Mire;”
“The Jericho Road.”



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Preface

THE attention of a group of children is difficult to gain and hard to keep when secured.

Pastors, Sunday school teachers and superintendents, junior workers and all others who teach religious lessons to children are usually limited as to time. It is a pity to waste any of the precious minutes of a lesson hour in efforts to gain attention and preserve order. Any objects, therefore, which will attract the children's eyes, and keep their faces turned voluntarily toward the speaker, are helpful.

Besides attracting attention objects have a way of fixing themselves in one's mind, together with the talks they have illustrated. Often an adult will find a spiritual truth flashing into his mind at the sight of an object used by a teacher many years before.

The talks given in this volume are illustrated by simple, inexpensive and easily obtained objects, which are calculated to interest the children so that the lessons taught will be enjoyed and also impressed upon their memories.

This book is sent forth in the earnest hope that it will help many workers among children in their beautiful, important but difficult work.

C. E. G.

Minneapolis, Minn.

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1

MIRRORED TRUTH

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord."—2 COR. 3:18.

MATERIALS: Two small mirrors, one soiled and one clean. Some flowers. A hammer. A Bible.

MIRRORS have been used for centuries, although people of old did not have as fine mirrors as we now enjoy. Mirrors will reflect whatever they are turned toward. I have a small one here. See, as I hold these flowers before it, the blossoms are perfectly reflected in the glass.

Nature has many wonderful mirrors scattered over the earth. You have all seen the blue sky and fleecy clouds reflected in lakes, rivers and ponds. There are some things which can be seen only by reflection. In Europe there is a wonderful painting which, for some unknown reason, the artist painted upon a ceiling. To enjoy this masterpiece, for many years people had to stand with their necks craned uncomfortably back as they looked upward. At last, some ingenious person constructed a large mirror beneath the painting, so now people may stand at their ease and look at the reflection of the picture in the glass. God, our

Heavenly Father, can be seen only by reflection as long as we live in our human bodies. Sometime, after we have gone through the wonderful change called dying, we shall see Him face to face. (1 John 3:2.) Until then, we have to see Him by reflection.

Can any of you tell me one of the mirrors through which we may see God? This book is one. (Show Bible.) The love and Fatherhood of God are reflected through every page of it, and the more we read it the plainer we shall see God. Perhaps you have noticed that I have a hammer lying on the table. One ought to be careful with hammers when there are looking-glasses about. (With the hammer break one of the glasses.) Now, see what I have done! Is our mirror entirely spoiled? Let us see if it will reflect these flowers as it did awhile ago. (Hold flowers before one of the pieces of glass.) Well, the fragment gives us a partial reflection of our bouquet, but we can get very little idea of the whole. Some people break up the word of God with the hammers of their criticism. They break the Bible into fragments, throwing away some verses, some chapter and some whole books, and then, because the pieces they have left do not reflect the image of God to their satisfaction, they say the Bible is not true.

It takes the whole Bible to reflect God. Fragments are not enough. Do not let people break up your Bible for you. Cherish the whole book and

gaze into it often, praying God to clear your eyes so you may see His reflection. Just as some people break up the mirror of the Bible, others break up the mirror of Nature. Because they have learned some scientific facts and their eyes are not yet clear enough to see God in them, they try to explain God out of Nature. Nothing draws one nearer to God than looking for His reflection as we enjoy Nature. We can see His glory in every sunset and in every starlit night. (Ps. 19:1, 2.) We can also see God reflected through the lives of Christians and in our own experiences.

I have a glass here which is not broken. Let us look at our flowers through it. Why, what is the matter? They do not reflect plainly. The glass is dirty, you say? Then, to get a good reflection of an object through a mirror the glass should be clean. It is the same with a life. We see faint reflections of God in some Christians' lives, but their faults so blur and darken their actions that we cannot get a very clear idea of God through them. It is better to see our flowers through this soiled glass than not to see them at all, I think, but how much better it would be to have the glass clean so we could realize how lovely the blossoms are!

We must remember that people are looking at us if we call ourselves Christians, and it should be our constant care to keep our lives clean and clear, so that God's love can be reflected through them. A mirror cannot keep itself clean. Human hands

have to clean it often if it is to reflect well. We cannot keep ourselves clean. If we neglect to ask God to clean us, and keep us clean, we shall give forth a very blurred and indistinct reflection of God as we go about from day to day, and perhaps people, looking at us, will get the idea that there is nothing much in religion. So we must be careful.

While we wish we might see our Heavenly Father face to face in this life, still even the constant looking at His reflection through the mirrors of the Bible, Nature, other people's Christian lives and our own experiences, works such a change in us that, without our knowing it, we begin to grow like Him. Isn't this a beautiful thought?

THE PLUMBLINE

*“I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel.”—
AMOS 7:8.*

MATERIALS: A string with a weight on one end. Some building blocks lettered as indicated in the lesson.

MASONS and carpenters have to be very particular in making a building. A wall has to be perfectly “true” in order to be safe. To find how “true” their work is, builders often use a plumbline, which is a simple thing, something like this. (Show string.) The men find by dropping their plumbline down their walls whether they have been building straight or not. God used the plumbline as an illustration when talking to the Jews. The Israelites built their national affairs so crookedly that God was displeased and broke up their nation and scattered the people abroad.

God tests not only nations by His plumbline, but characters. (Zech. 4:10; Prov. 15:3.) Here are some blocks. Will you build a wall for me while I talk?

A wall does not build itself. A pile of stones may be hauled and dumped upon a certain spot, but unless masons work, putting the stones in place and cementing them together, a wall will never be built

there. It is the same with a character. God furnishes the things that ought to be built into a good character but we each perform the work upon our own character ourselves.

Certain things must go into the making of a straight, true character, just as stones must go into the building of a wall. Let us read the words on some of these blocks you are using—Honesty, Faithfulness, Endurance, Courage, Meekness, Hope, and many others. Ah, see! I have dislodged the block of Perseverance. Let me drop my plumbline down your wall now. It is out of plumb because that block fell out. We will replace it. Now I have knocked out the block of Truthfulness and our plumbline shows us that the wall is once more out of plumb.

It is not easy to build a “true” character. Truth, Righteousness, Temperance and Purity make four good corner-stones for any character, but other stones, one after another, must be put in and made to stay in place if we would have our characters straight and true. Some people have more difficulty in keeping certain stones in place than others. You may have trouble in cementing in Punctuality, for instance, while I may have a hard time with Good Nature. The task of making a true character is almost hopeless if we depend upon our own strength alone to build it. We need the help of the Master Builder, Jesus Christ. His help is offered freely to all. (Heb. 4:16.)

3

ANNOYANCES

“But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.”—ISA. 57:20.

MATERIALS: One bottle containing clear water. One bottle containing water having mud settled in the bottom. Strips of paper wide enough to hide the mud should be pasted around the bottom of both bottles.

ANNOYING things happen to all of us, every day. People whom we meet say and do things which irritate us; we find our cherished plans overturned, and, in one way and another, we are always finding annoyances.

There are different ways of meeting annoyances. Do you see these two bottles I have? They look just alike, don't they? So, to a person meeting them on the street, the boys and girls of a happy group seem to resemble each other, because the smiles and pleasant expressions of all are alike. But let some annoying thing occur and the resemblance ceases at once. I will shake these bottles. Do the contents look alike now? Oh, no, indeed. The water in one bottle remains as clear as ever, but the other has grown muddy and black. So, in the group of children, some eyes flash with anger when annoyances come; some cheeks grow crimson with rage; some lips pout or fall into sullen curves,

while feet are stamped, hands clinched and angry words are uttered. Other faces, however, remain calm and gentle as the water in one of these bottles has remained clear and bright.

What do you suppose makes the difference in these bottles? Well, there was mud in the bottom of one bottle and none in the other; and there is evil in the bottom of some hearts and none in others. When King Saul was annoyed he used to throw his javelin at the boy who played the harp to amuse him. (1 Sam. 18:11.) When proud Haman was annoyed he wished to kill, not only the Jew who annoyed him, but all the Jews in the world. (Esther 3:5, 6.)

But when Paul and Silas were thrown into prison they showed no anger, even though that was a big trouble instead of a little annoyance. They sang songs in the night. (Acts 16:25.) Jesus never showed anger, although He met with as many annoyances as we do. (Heb. 4:15.) How sorry He must feel to see black, bitter thoughts welling up in His children's minds like the mud arose in that bottle. If evil is in our hearts we cannot hope to have it lie still down in the bottom where it will not be seen, because some little annoyance will be sure to stir it up. The only way is to ask Jesus to take all evil out of our hearts (Ps. 139:23, 24), so that no matter what happens to us, we shall not act in a way that is unbecoming to a Christian.

THE HEART MILL.

“Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.”—PROV. 4:23.

MATERIALS: A picture of a mill. Little bags containing different kinds of flour and meal.

WHEN I was a little girl I used to see a mill with a wheel like this in the picture, and in this mill flour was made. People came from all the farms round about, bringing wheat and other grain to the miller and he would start up his machinery. The men would hurry around with their clothes all powdered white, and by-and-by there would be bags full of flour like these before us, only, of course, those bags would be big and heavy.

Now, is the flour in these bags all alike? No, and neither was the flour I used to see. The water was the same. It always flowed from the millpond and always passed over the same big wheel. The millers were always the same men and the machinery worked always alike, but the flour that came pouring into the bags was of different kinds and different colours. Why? Because the kind of flour ground out was according to the kind of grain that was put into the mill. Wheat made white flour like this. Rye made brown flour, like this. Buckwheat

came out like this, and corn like this. It all depended upon what kind of grain was put through the mill.

That old mill makes me think of our hearts. The Bible says: "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Prov. 23:7), meaning that whatever we put into our hearts, will come out in our lives. God is always the same. The earth is always the same. Heaven and the angels are always the same. Two brothers or two sisters may be surrounded by exactly the same circumstance and yet they may grind out very different actions from their mills. Cain and Abel were brothers, but while Abel put obedience into the mill of his heart and righteousness was ground out into his life, Cain put envy and hatred into his heart and murder was ground out into his life. Joshua and David put faith into their heart-mills and victory was ground out into their lives.

We can think of example after example of this kind in the Bible. It is a very serious thought. When we find things coming out in our lives that we are ashamed of we had better think of the old mill, and begin to be careful what we are letting into the mill of our hearts. Jesus lived the most beautiful life that has ever been lived, and it was because He never allowed an evil thought to get into the mill of His heart. Only what is put into the mill will be ground out into the life.

SPECIAL ORDERS

"I will instruct and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go. I will guide thee with my eye."—Ps. 32:8.

MATERIALS: Picture of a locomotive. Some telegraph blanks. A long stick.

NONE of us like rules very well, do we? The rules of a school or home are not the parts we enjoy the most, although we realize that rules are necessary. God does not trouble us with many rules. He gave us ten commandments, but ten is a very small number of rules with which to govern a world. They are sufficient, however, because God has a way of sending us each our own special orders.

Of what is this a picture? What is a man called who runs an engine? An engineer has a certain run—that is, he is supposed to take his train from one certain place to another. You and I are like engineers. We have each a life to take from one place to another. Our run is from this earth to the Heavenly City. Jesus has made a good track for us but, nevertheless, it isn't always easy for us to make the run. So many accidents may happen. If an engineer had only his general orders to guide him he would have a harder task than he does have.

But he receives *special* orders all along the way. He starts out upon his run, seated in his cab with his hand upon the throttle, and the engine, drawing the train of cars, steams out upon the track. Faster and faster he goes until by-and-by he nears a station. Then he slows his train and brings his engine to a stop.

Then what does he do? He leaves the cab and goes to the telegraph operator in the depot. From him he receives a slip like this. (Show telegraph blank.) That is a message, and it contains special orders for the engineer. He goes back to the engine, opens the throttle, blows the whistle, rings the bell, and away the train goes again. Soon another station is reached and again the engineer goes for special orders. He does not depend upon his own judgment in making the run; neither does he depend upon general orders entirely. There are other trains on the track; there are bridges and tunnels ahead, there are curves in the road and many switches on the track. The engineer cannot tell what is going on ahead of, nor behind him, but the general operator knows, so the engineer trusts in him.

It is well for us that there is Someone who knows everything that is happening ahead of, and behind, and all around us, as we make our run through life. That Someone is God, and besides the general orders which He has given us in the Bible, He has special orders for us all along the

way. He could not have them written into the Bible because they are different for each one of us, just as each engineer's orders are different. We usually have to go after our special orders. The best place to get them is all alone in a room, kneeling beside a bed or a chair. They do not come on yellow blanks like these telegrams. They come in the form of feelings and thoughts in our hearts.

Sometimes, of course, there is not time to go and get these orders. We need to have them in a hurry. Sometimes an engineer has not time to stop at a station even for a minute, so at such times the general operator has a way of helping him. A boy, or a man, is ordered to take a long stick like this (Show stick), and put the message on the end of it (illustrate), and when the engineer slows his train a little and leans out of the cab the person with the message runs along the depot platform and holds up the stick and the engineer takes his orders as he passes by. We never need be afraid that God will leave us without orders, no matter how hurried we are. He does not need to use a stick nor a telegraph blank. He can flash a message into our minds in a second of time, while we are in the midst of a conversation or anything else. The more willingly we obey the orders we get the more often we will receive them, and the better success we will make of our run through life.

6

PRAYER

“The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”—JAMES 5:16.

MATERIALS: A reading glass. A piece of paper. A piece of twine.

LET us move our chairs as close to the window as we can, today, so that the sun can tell us something. Here is a reading-glass. Most of you have seen such glasses before. It is just a lens with a band of metal around it, and a wooden handle. We often see old people using such glasses to read with because the lens magnifies. We are not going to use it for the purpose of reading. We are going to let it teach us a lesson about prayer.

First, let us look up some references about prayer. (Phil. 4:6; Jas. 5:16; Jas. 5:13; Matt. 21:22; John 14:13-14.) What do all these passages of Scripture tell us? Don't they say that if we want something the proper thing to do is to ask for it? Certainly they do. Now, I wish one of you would take this glass and hold it in the sun. Put this piece of paper on the window sill, and let the light shine through the glass upon it. It makes a bright circle of light, doesn't it? Some

people know how to make long, beautifully-worded prayers. Sometimes we hear people in meetings praying for a revival. They make fine-sounding prayers, mentioning the heathen, the poor, the sick and the sorrowful and many other subjects. Among all the rest they pray for a revival, but sometimes the revival does not come.

Now move and turn your glass until the light which falls through it ceases to be in a big circle of light and focusses down to one little point on the paper. Make the bit of light just as small and like a tiny point as you can. There! Now hold it so a minute. The bright, large circle was all right, just as prayers which cover a good many subjects are all right. Such prayers serve a good purpose, but look at your paper now. It has commenced to smoke. See, now, just under that tiny point of light a hole is burning through the paper. That paper never would have caught fire had you not brought the sunlight to a focus on a certain spot. So it is with prayer. If we want anything very badly we should bring all our faith, all our earnestness, all our longing, all our claiming of the promises to a focus on that one particular thing until we get our desire, or whatever God sends instead of it, if He does not think best for us to have exactly what we have asked for. We shall get an answer of some kind if we focus.

Take this piece of twine and focus the sunlight upon it through the glass. There, see, the light

has burned it through and it is in two pieces. (If the teacher wishes to bring out the thought of the cords of sin and the power of prayer to sever them, at this time, there is a good opportunity.)

Never mind if your prayers are not beautifully worded. Never mind if they are not long, but be sure to have them focussed and they will be sure to be answered. Of course we must be careful what we focus our prayers upon.

If I focussed that sunlight upon your hand you would be burned. If I focussed it upon the window-sill the church property would be damaged. When we pray we are handling a Power that is very great and we should be careful what we pray for. We are very ignorant. It is always best to tell God what it is that we want, and then leave the matter entirely with Him, telling Him that we would rather His will would be done than ours, so that no harm can happen in any way.

LIFE FROM THE TOMB: AN EASTER LESSON

“Oh, death, where is thy sting? Oh, grave, where is thy victory?”—1 COR. 15:55.

MATERIALS: A nest made of straw, filled with coloured eggs; one for each pupil. One uncoloured egg. A dish.

THIS is the gladdest day of all the year. The world is so beautiful this Spring morning, with its birds, flowers and freshly springing grass that we are glad to be alive. Even when it rains, Easter Day seems to be sunny because we have such glad and happy thoughts, that it is hard to see the raindrops.

We like to remind each other on Easter Day that we need never die. We don't want to die and it makes us happy to know that we can go on living for ever and ever (John 11:26). This is the reason we give each other Easter eggs. It is to make us realize that there can be life even in places where we would not think there could be life, and that living things can come out of a tightly shut up place. See, I have an egg here for each of you. Are they not pretty as they lie together in all their bright colours? Let us look at one. An egg is a very interesting object.

The first thing you notice is the firm outside shell, which is not, however, as tight and compact a covering as it appears to be. If we had a magnifying glass we could see that it is everywhere perforated with a multitude of holes. Through these holes there is a constant evaporation going on. That is why an egg will keep sweet much longer if it is varnished. Now, I will break this egg, which is not coloured, into a dish, so we can see the inside of it. The shell, you see, is lined with a very thin, though tough membrane, which divides from the shell in the large end and forms a little bag, which is filled with air. In newly-laid eggs this bag is very small, but it becomes larger the longer the egg is kept.

Let us look at the inside of the egg as it lies before us in the dish. The white consists of two parts. Perhaps you have never noticed this. Many grown-up women who have kept house for many years do not know it, so perhaps you can surprise Mother by telling her about it when you go home. The white is in two parts, each of which is enveloped in a distinct membrane. The outer bag of albumen, next to the shell, is quite thin and watery, while the next, which invests the yolk, is heavy and thick. Surely an egg is an interesting and curious object.

We might go on, and talk about all the materials which make up the egg's composition, and which, if the egg is placed where the temperature

is kept in a certain uniform condition for three weeks will turn into a living chicken with feathers and bones and a strong little bill which will break a way out of the imprisoning shell. If you had never seen an egg before, you would find it hard to believe that any living thing could possibly come out of its shell. That is why eggs are such good symbols at Easter time. When Jesus' body was put into the grave it did not seem possible that any living person could ever come out of that cold, dark, shut-up place, but Jesus did come out, alive and well. You and I need not be afraid of the grave. A shell is not tight enough to keep a chicken shut in an egg, and the grave was not tight enough to hold Jesus. Jesus broke through the power of death, and now you and I, and all who believe in Jesus, need not be afraid to die, because the grave cannot keep us in its prison.

TOBACCO

"Touch not the unclean thing."—2 Cor. 6:17.

MATERIALS: A cigar. Some tobacco leaves. If these cannot be obtained a cigar may be unrolled and the leaves used.

How many of you can guess what kind of leaves I have here? No, you must not touch them. You would know at once what they were if you had them near you. Just look at them from a distance, while I tell you something about them.

Leaves like these began to be used about four hundred years ago. Today, it is estimated that in the United States alone over five hundred tons of them are consumed every day; representing a value of over ten hundred thousand dollars.

Do you think you would like to raise plants which have leaves like these. No doubt you would like the money you think they would bring you, and I am sure the fields of growing plants would look pretty, but let me tell you that this plant is a fearful robber. It has been estimated that this plant has a greater power for plundering the soil than any other tree, shrub or plant known. For every hundred pounds of the dried leaves produced the soil is robbed of at least twenty pounds

of its most valuable mineral atoms. If you raised these plants you would have to use as much fertilizer for one ton of these leaves, as you would for fourteen tons of wheat, fifteen tons of corn, or twelve tons of oats. Notwithstanding this, it would be worth while to raise them if by so doing you could feel that you were benefitting mankind, but, strange to say, instead of being a blessing like wheat, oats and other things, these leaves are a positive poison. A chemist could take a pound of leaves like these and by certain operations bring from them a substance which is so terribly destructive that a single drop of it placed upon the tongue of a dog, would instantly produce death. A few grains of it put upon a hot stove here in our church would make thousands of people cough distressingly (if there were thousands of people in this room), and one one-hundredth part of a grain pricked into your skin would produce sickness and fainting.

Have you guessed yet what these terrible leaves are? You have all seen such leaves before. I am sorry to say that no one can walk on our streets for a day, and not see many of them. They are usually rolled up like this. (Show cigar.) Yes, you all recognize the object. It is something only too familiar to us all. It is estimated that in the United States, alone, about twenty-three thousand cigars and ten thousand cigarettes are consumed *every minute* of the sixteen hours during which

men are awake. Men, boys, and even women, smoke this weed, whose only mission seems to be to kill. Gardeners and florists use the leaves to destroy grubs and noxious insects. Flies, if confined in show-cases with cigars, soon die. Bees and other insects are quickly killed by tobacco fumes, and a dose of pure nicotine has been known to kill a man in three minutes. Boys who wish to grow into fine men, strong in body and mind, and girls who wish to become pure women, should beware of these leaves, which will stunt their bodies and dry up their brains. Our bodies are meant to be the temples of the Holy Spirit, and we must take care not to let any enemies creep in to harm them. (1 Cor. 3:16; 1 Cor. 6:19.)

A HIVE OF BEES

“Oh, Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all.”—Ps. 104:24.

MATERIALS: A bee hive, or picture of one. Two sections, one empty and one full of honey. A flower, or bouquet.

DID you ever come upon a bee when you were gathering flowers? What did you do, drop your flowers and run? It is no wonder people are afraid of bees, since they sting so badly, but, after all, bees are very interesting little insects. Here is a bee hive—a home such as bees live in. It seems strange that bees can live in such a dark box as this. See, there is only one opening in it, this little place at the bottom where the bees go in and out. Here is a section. The hive is filled with sections such as this, and the bees make the honey and put it in the sections. This is an empty section, but here I have one which is all filled with honeycomb and honey. Some sections are filled with artificial honeycomb so that the bees do not have to spend time making the comb, but the wonderful little bees can make comb whenever artificial comb is not supplied them. Here is a small, square section, such as people put in hives when they want the bees to make comb honey. Bee-

keepers usually extract the honey they get from the large sections.

Each bee knows its own work and busily goes about it from early morning until dark. Some bees gather nectar from flowers, sometimes flying miles to get it. They alight upon a flower and go away down into the deep places (show flowers) and draw out the sweetness. The flowers like to have the bees come. One reason God made flowers of such bright colours was to attract the bees. The pollen of the flowers clings to the bees and thus is carried from flower to flower, helping to make seeds grow. The bees use some of the flower pollen to make bee food to feed their babies. Some of the bees which stay in the hive have the task of feeding the little bees. Others make the comb ready to receive the honey which is brought in by other bees. The more you read about bees the more interested you will become in them. The bees teach us a lesson as they gather the sweetness from far and near and store it up to make themselves and their human friends happier.

There are a number of bees in the Bible which we can catch and put into the hive of our mind, and let them work and bring sweetness into our lives and the lives of our friends. The first bee I am going to tell you about is a very important one. Take your Bible and see who will find its name first, (Acts 3:19). Be "Converted." Will

someone please write that bee's name on the board for us? Jesus said, "Except you be converted and become as little children ye shall not enter the kingdom of Heaven." Therefore we must all be converted. All we have to do to be converted is to be sorry for our sins and ask God to forgive them and then believe that He does forgive. Remember that this is the most important bee in our hive.

Now for the second; (Eph. 5:1), "Be followers of God." To follow God means to obey Him in everything. The person who stays at home and works for God is a follower just as much as the one who is called to go across the sea as a missionary.

Eph. 6:10 is the next. "Be Strong." God wants us to have a strong body and a strong mind and a strong soul. Whiskey and tobacco are bad for the body and evil books are bad for the mind, and wicked thoughts and acts are bad for the soul.

"Be clean" (Isa. 52:11). It is a good thing for us to have our bodies sweet and clean, but it is a more important thing to have our souls clean. If we want God to dwell in our hearts they must be clean places or He will not abide there. He will make and keep them clean for us if we ask Him.

"Be diligent" (2 Peter 3:14). The lazy bees in the hive are called drones. The worker bees have to even feed the big, fat drones. But when

winter comes and the workers know that they will have all they can do to feed the babies and take care of the queen, and that the hive will be crowded during the long cold spell, they sting the drones to death. Let us not be drones. Let us do our full share of work in the world.

“Be kind” (Eph. 4:32). There are some people who are willing to work, who are strong and clean, but who are unpleasant to have around. They are not kind. They make sharp remarks and do little unkind actions. Jesus wants His children to be “kindly affectioned one to another.” He wants to hear kind words and see thoughtful acts.

“Be content” (Heb. 13:5). The contented bee is happy in a clover blossom even when he sees other bees sipping honey from roses. He never envies others. Let those of us who have to live in common houses and wear plain clothes and eat more bread and butter than cake be like the contented bee.

“Be of good courage” (Ps. 27:14). A Christian need not be afraid of anything in the world, because God is always close by ready to help. God can take the worst thing that can happen and bring good out of it for us.

“Be steadfast” (1 Cor. 15:58). God wants to be able to depend upon us. He wants to know that we will work for Him whether we feel like it or not, and will do the things that are right even

when we want to do the opposite. God loves steadfast people.

“Be holy” (Lev. 19:2). The more we love God the more we will grow like Him. The more we think about Him and pray to Him the holier we will grow.

“Be perfect” (2 Cor. 13:11). If we want to hit something that is high we aim high. God tells us to be perfect because He wants us to aim as high as we can. Even though we fail again and again let us keep on trying to be perfect.

“Be watchful” (Rev. 3:2). There is a crown laid up for us in Heaven, but we have enemies which are trying to keep us from getting it. Unless we watch against laziness, bad temper, selfishness, untruthfulness and all such enemies we shall lose our crowns.

“Be faithful” (Rev. 2:10). Sometimes we feel like serving God for a day, sometimes for a week or a month. Sometimes we get tired and want to stop for awhile. God says, “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

“Be ready” (Matt. 24:44). The most important thing in life is to be ready to go to Heaven any time Jesus calls us. It is a very happy and beautiful thing to go to Heaven, but we would not want to be found doing something wrong when Jesus comes to call us. We never know when that will be, so it is necessary for us to be always ready.

THE BOOK OF LIFE: A NEW YEAR'S LESSON

"And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."—REV. 20:12.

MATERIALS: Cover several large books and write dates of past years on their backs. Have one book bear date of year just closed. A blank book with date of the new year.

WHEN John was on the Isle of Patmos and had his wonderful vision one of the things he saw was a great white throne upon which sat our Heavenly Father. Before the throne stood people who had died, and books were opened and God judged the people out of the books, according to the deeds they had done while they were here on earth. (Rev. 20:11, 12.) Does it not make us feel very serious to think that some day we shall stand in front of God and give an account of everything we have ever said and done in our lives? (Matt. 12:36). Although this is a serious thought it need not be an unhappy one because we are told (Mal. 3:16, 17) that God listens when we talk, and when He hears us say good things He has them written down in a book which He calls a "Book of Remembrance," and the people whose names are in that book shall be His loved ones and His jewels.

We have a number of books on the table. Read the dates on them for me, please. These books represent some of the years we have already lived. We cannot change anything that is written in these books, can we? Even if we wish some of the things were different we cannot help it now. Every year is made up of days, just as these books are made up of pages, and the glad days and the sad days, the good days and bad days are all bound up together, and cannot be changed again.

Here is the book of the year we have just lived. It is all written full except these few pages at the end. When we meet here again it will all have been finished, and this book will go on the shelves of the past with the others.

But here we have a perfectly blank book. Not a line has been written in it. See the pages. How white they are! Not a blot anywhere nor a mistake of any kind. This is the book of the new year. Last year we made some mistakes, didn't we? We let some things get written in our books that we wish now were not there. We don't like to think about them. Let us try not to let such things get into our next year's book. God is not going to give out all the book to us at once. He is going to give it a day at a time. After one page has been written He will take it away and give another, and so on through the year. Maybe we will never write all the pages of this new book. God may decide to take us up to Heaven to be

judged out of our books before the whole year is out. Does it give you a feeling of fear to think of that? It need not, because I will tell you of a wonderful book called "The Lamb's Book of Life." Jesus is called "The Lamb of God," and He was slain for us. So whenever any of us give ourselves to Jesus He enters our names in His own book and then, no matter if our life books do show a good many blots and mistakes, we can be saved (Rev. 21:27).

INTEMPERANCE

“My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.”—PROV. 1:10.

MATERIALS: A spool of thread. A rope. A cigarette. A wine glass.

ONCE upon a time there were two boys named John and James. One day, on their way home from school, they were hailed by a group of boys down in an alley behind a picture theatre.

“Come on,” cried these boys, “we are having lots of fun.”

John and James lost no time in joining the group and they saw tiny flashes and heard matches being scratched. The boys in the group were lighting things like these (show cigarette). John and James stopped short, because they knew as well as you do what cigarettes do to people. They started to back away, but the other boys urged them to stay.

“Wait,” cried the boys, “we’re having a dandy time. Help yourselves to the cigarettes. Here are matches.”

James, disliking to refuse, took up a cigarette, but John shook his head.

“No,” he said, “I don’t want to learn to smoke.”

The boys began to jeer and laugh. "Afraid!" they taunted. "Sissy!"

As all you boys know, a fellow hates to have the word "afraid" used in connection with himself, so James hastily lighted his cigarette, but John drew himself up and replied: "Of course I'm afraid. I want a strong mind and a big body, and I'm afraid that stuff will make my brain stupid and my body stunted. I won't learn to smoke," and he walked away.

The boys laughed and sneered, and James, who felt inclined to follow him, stayed, thinking to himself: "I'll learn just to please the boys. I can break off at any time."

He imagined the habit would be like this frail thread. Come up here, one of you, and show us how easily you can break this thread. It doesn't require any effort at all, does it? But James went night after night to that place behind the theatre and soon the unpleasant feeling caused by the cigarettes was a thing of the past and he found that if he tried to go without smoking it was hard for him to do so. His habit had grown until it had ceased to be like a thread. It was like this rope. See if you can break this. Oh, no, you cannot, indeed.

So James drifted along in this way for several years. Finally something occurred which aroused him. John graduated from the grades into high school. James failed to pass. Then James began

to think seriously and he was honest enough to lay the blame where it belonged—upon the cigarette habit and the bad company in which he had wasted his time. He decided that it was high time for him to reform. Unfortunately, however, Satan has a way of noticing when a boy wants to break away from his evil ways, and he always sets quickly to work to put a new temptation before such a boy.

Just at this time, therefore, James received an invitation to a party. Against the orders of his conscience he accepted the invitation and at that party he got his first taste of something people drink in glasses like these. What do you suppose it was? Wine. This happened before the days of prohibition, but I am afraid the time has not yet come when wine is entirely out of existence. Unfortunately the first taste of wine is seldom the last. During the next five years wine party followed wine party, and James' resolution to stop smoking faded away along with his other good resolutions. John graduated from high school at an early age, but James dropped out after his first year. As the years passed on, John almost forgot there ever was such a person as James. John's life was full of pleasure and work. He was a successful business man. One day, as he was sitting in his office, the door opened and a dirty, ragged, sickly-looking man entered.

“Give me a dime,” he begged.

John looked up in surprise. There seemed to be something faintly familiar about this tramp. He arose and opened a window to let out the odour of foul tobacco that clung around his visitor, and the man said: "Don't you know me, John?"

"I cannot recall your name," hesitated John, but even as he spoke a memory of his boyhood friend floated before his mind and he knew who stood before him.

I will not go on with the story. You may finish it as you please. I only want to leave the picture before you, so that you can decide which kind of man you think you want to be. Do you want to be healthy, happy and prosperous, like John, or do you want to be sickly, unhappy and a failure in life, like James? I do not say that all men who smoke and drink come to bad ends, but I do say that it is very dangerous to form habits which have been the ruin of thousands of men. The first cigarette is a little thing, seemingly no more dangerous than this thread, which you could break so easily, but beware of trusting it, because the craving for nicotine and strong drink grows with fearful rapidity and attains such strength that you are likely to find yourself bound as tightly with bad habits as you would be bound if I twisted this rope around and around your hands and feet.

12

FAITH

“What I do ye know not, but ye shall know hereafter.”—
JOHN 13:7.

MATERIALS: A sheet of paper, pen and ink; a clean blotter. A small looking-glass.

As children grow in years they find that there are many things in life which are hard to understand. Perhaps you have already begun to be puzzled about some of them. You know, for instance, that God is perfectly good and that everything He does is always right, but sometimes you are ill, sometimes you get hurt, sometimes your pleasant plans are overturned and you wonder why God allows such things to happen to you. Very great sorrows come to children at times. Things that it almost breaks their hearts even to think about occur. Grown people, to whom children look for comfort at such times do not always know how to explain these hard things themselves, because God's ways are “past finding out” (Rom. 11:33).

Now I am going to write something on this piece of paper. (Write “God is love.”) I will not show you what I have written, but I will rub my blotter over the writing and you may look at that. I wrote something pleasant and good and

the same thing I wrote is impressed upon the blotter. Tell me what you read upon the blotter, please. You cannot read it? Well, in the same way God's writing in the lives of His children is hard to read at times. It is impossible, in fact, but, nevertheless, it is always good (Ps. 145:9).

Do you believe that I wrote something pleasant and good? Why? Because I said so? Then you have faith in me. Faith is a wonderful thing. It is like a beautiful jewel which people find in this world and wear in their crowns in the life to come. God wants us to find this jewel because it is a precious thing. He will not be pleased with anyone who appears before Him without it (Heb. 11:6). I will show you now that your faith in me is justified. (Place blotter before mirror and the writing will be read easily in the glass.)

Are not the words I wrote pleasant and good? Since God is love He will never allow anything to happen to His children which is not for their best good, but since He wants us all to find and wear this precious jewel of faith, He does not make all His ways plain to us, and we cannot read His meaning at times any more than we could read the words on the blotter. There would be no need for faith if we could understand God's dealings with us.

"Oh, could we know the meaning grand,
In tears which come at His command,
Then gladly would we take the cross
And count as gain what seems a loss."

It is only in this world that we can get faith. In the next world God will hold up everything that troubled us, so that we can look at it reflected in the glass of His wisdom and knowledge (Rom. 11:33) and we shall either exclaim, "Oh, if I had only known how things really were I should have wanted these hard things to happen to me!" or we shall say, "I am glad I trusted when I did not know how pleasant and good it really was." Jesus showed some things to doubting Thomas, but He said at the same time, "Blessed are they that have not seen, yet believe" (John 20:29). Let us not, by doubting God's love, throw away our chance of securing the beautiful jewel of faith to wear when we appear before our Master. We can only earn it by a steadfast, unmovable belief in God's goodness when the things that happen around us look as though He were not good.

HOPE

“Hope maketh not ashamed.”—ROM. 5:5.

MATERIALS: A dish of water. A sheet of blank paper. A block of marble or stone. A resurrection plant. These plants may be secured from almost any large flower seed house for five or ten cents.

I AM going to show you something which at first you will consider a very unattractive and insignificant object. It looks like a dried root, or a handful of dead grass. It is, however, a curious and interesting little plant, and it holds a helpful lesson for us, just as all of God's wonderful works do. I will tell you at once what this plant suggests to me so you will not be wondering about it. It gives me a message of hope. Let us drop it into this dish of water and leave it there while we talk a little.

Children seldom think about hope, because it is natural for them to expect good things to happen to them. Their lives lie before them like this blank paper, or like this block of marble, which is still unchiselled and unformed. People who have partly painted the picture of their lives or who have commenced to chisel and form their characters are sometimes dissatisfied with the result. Our Heavenly Father knows how discour-

aging some things are, so he gave a great gift to His children, and this gift is hope. He planted a little of it in everybody's heart. You will find it springing up in yours when you need it, and you should cherish it, for it will prove a blessing to you.

In the hot country where these resurrection plants grow there are large surfaces of rock completely covered with them. The little plants look like ours did awhile ago—like dead, dried-up bunches of grass. Some people have so much sorrow, or what they call "bad luck," that their hearts become very desolate indeed, like that dreary country where the rain so seldom falls. But when the summer showers do come in that country, in fifteen or twenty minutes the scene completely changes. The little plants, which had looked so worthless and unattractive before, now are unfolded like this one in our dish, and the whole surface of rock is covered with beautiful fern-like plants of rich, dark green colour. It is true that when the moisture dries away and it becomes hot and dry again the little plants curl up once more into their former apparently lifeless condition, but there they remain, and at the next shower they quickly spring to life again. So it is with hope. Hope is always living in the human heart, although it sometimes seems to be dead, and it only requires a little shower of encouraging words, smiles or loving deeds to bring it quickly

to life again. Let us be thankful that we have this wonderful thing in our own hearts and try to keep it always unfolded and green, and let us remember that it lies in the hearts of others also, and try to revive it for them when it seems to be dead, by generous showers of love.

LOVE

“Love is the fulfilling of the law.”—ROM. 13:10.

MATERIALS: A door key. A bunch of keys. A large gilt cardboard key with the word “love” on it.

ONCE upon a time a boy and a girl found a big, wonderful castle. They shook and rattled the heavy knob of the door, but their efforts were all in vain; they could not open it. They climbed up to as many of the windows as they could reach, but these were all fastened shut. Discouraged, at last, the children sat down on the doorstep. At that moment a man came along holding in his hand something like this (show cardboard key, turning the side without the word toward the class). Unlocking the entrance to the castle he let the children in, and he smiled when they, after casting a hasty glance around the hall, hastened at once to an inner door and attempted to open it.

Calling them back he explained something about the castle to them. He said that it contained a hundred or more rooms, and that each room held a treasure. When he added that they might each select one jewel for their own, out of each room they entered, they were so excited and overjoyed

that they paid little attention to the instructions he gave them, together with a big bunch of keys, like this (show bunch of keys).

The gentleman went away, saying that he would return at night, and the boy and girl excitedly began their search. But it took a long time to open the first door. They tried key after key from the bunch before they found the right one. When at last they were able to open the door, and entered the room, they found that the man's words were true. Heaps of beautiful jewels were spread out before them, and with joy they each selected a splendid gem for themselves. They then tried the next door. But again they lost a great deal of precious time in searching for the proper key. When they finally entered the room they found it to contain even more beautiful jewels than the first room. And so it went all through the house. They worked their way from room to room of the castle, but their progress was very slow. The bunch of keys was heavy, and among the many upon the key ring it was difficult to find the right one for each door. When, at times, they wanted to go back for things they had forgotten in some of the rooms, the same long trying of keys had to be gone over again.

When night fell and they had to leave the castle they met the gentleman once more at the front door. He asked if they had each gained a hundred or more gems, one from each room, but they

could only show him a dozen or two jewels. With tears they told of their troubles with the keys and he, taking the bunch from them, chose out of it one little key. Putting this into the lock of the first door they had opened he told them to turn it and then try the other doors of the castle. They did so, and, to their surprise, found that every door was now unlocked. They could, without trouble, or loss of time, roam over the entire castle at their pleasure, loading themselves with the treasures each room contained. The little key the man advised them to use opened at one time every door in the castle.

The law of God is like the castle in the story. It is big, and grim, and it is filled with many commandments like the castle was filled with rooms. The Christian is supposed to enter into God's law and gather treasures for himself out of it, but some of the commandments are hard to obey, just as the doors were hard to open. There are treasures in the rooms of God's law.

For instance: the room of Patience contains a jewel which will enable us to bear pleasantly with the faults of our friends. The room of Faith holds a gem which will make us happy, even when we are in trouble. The rooms of Truth, Honesty, Humility, Gentleness, Earnestness, Hope, Purity and many others I might mention, each contain treasures which we may use to adorn our characters if we can only find the keys to let us into

the rooms where they are. We often want to run quickly from room to room. While we are in the room of Patience we suddenly need strength. While we are in the room of Honesty we need kindness. We have no time to waste in unlocking doors.

See what I have here? (Show cardboard key with word "Love" to the front.) This is a key called love. God knows how hard it is for us to keep all His law. He knows that some of His commandments are hard to obey, and that we are apt to forget, besides. So He has the key of love for all of us who will go to Him and get it. Love is a magic key. It unlocks all the doors in the big castle of the law and as long as we don't lose the key we can keep every commandment without thinking much about it. If you love Jimmie you don't want to hurt him. If you love Hazel you would rather she would have the bigger share of the good things. If you love John you don't want to tell tales about him. If you love your neighbour you don't want to steal his apples. If you love the Jew peddlers you don't want to throw stones at them, and if you love your parents and teachers, you want to obey them. Love is the fulfilling of the law. Let us get the golden key of Love. The Bible tells us it is the most important key of all, and that without it we can do nothing (1 Cor., chap. 13).

TALKS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER—I

"Our Father who art in Heaven; Hallowed be thy name."—MATT. 6:9.

MATERIAL: A blackboard.

How many of you know the Lord's Prayer? No doubt every boy and girl in the room can repeat this beautiful prayer word for word, but I wonder if we all understand it? It is a wonderful prayer, and it will do us good to study it.

In the part I have now on the board, which word do you like the best? I hear two answers. "Heaven" is a beautiful word indeed, and we all have reason to love it, but, after all, what would Heaven be without our Heavenly Father? There would be no Heaven at all without God, would there? I believe we all agree that "Father" is the best word on the board. It is wonderful to think of God as the mighty Creator, who made Heaven and earth, but if we thought of Him in that way only, we might be afraid of Him. But when we say "Father," we think of so many good things that we cannot be afraid.

What does your earthly father do? First of all, he takes care of you. Let us look up a few references. (Read responsively Matt. 6:25 to

end.) Is not that a beautiful passage? It teaches us that our Heavenly Father takes care of us just as our earthly father does. He takes an interest in what we eat, and what we wear, and if we do the best we can for ourselves He will see that we have plenty of everything we need. We will ask our secretary to write the word "care" under the word "Father" on the board to remind us that God takes care of us.

Now write the word "help" under the word "care." Look up Ps. 9:9, and Ps. 46:1. These verses teach us whom to go to when we are in trouble. Our Heavenly Father is always ready to help us. Now can you think of a word which expresses the best thing of all in a father? Love. Please write that word on the board beneath the word "help," while we all repeat John 3:16. It is not hard to choose a Bible verse which tells of God's love. The whole Book breathes of the wonderful love of God. More than any earthly father loves his children our Heavenly Father loves us.

Now we come to the beautiful word "Heaven." When we say it, we have delightful visions of golden streets, and angels and friends who have gone before us (Read Acts 7:49). This explains why Heaven is such a wonderful place. It is because it is "the dwelling place of God." Please write those words under "Heaven" on the board. It is because God is there that the place is full of

light and happiness and is free from every kind of sorrow. You and I have never seen Heaven, but there is one little bit of Heaven that we can have right here on earth (Read John 14:23). We said a moment ago that Heaven was the dwelling place of God, didn't we? Well, then, if God comes and dwells in our hearts it will make a little bit of Heaven right in our hearts, won't it? Then no matter what happens outside of us, inside we can be happy and calm and full of peace. Write "my heart" on the board, too, please. But God will come not only to one or two hearts in the world. He will come into every heart which will receive Him, and there is Heaven wherever Jesus is. Write that down, "Wherever Jesus is."

Now in the next sentence, "Hallowed be thy name," we have some things to think about. (Look up Phil. 2:9, 10, 11.) What kind of a name is the name of God? "Above all other names." Write that on the board under "name." (Look up Acts 4:12.) This verse says that Jesus is the "name which saves." Write that also. Now since this name is the greatest and most wonderful that we can speak, and since it is the name that saves, how careful we ought to be how we use it. I have heard boys no bigger than the ones in this room use that beautiful name in swearing. Use that name which is "above all other names" in profanity! What is the word at the beginning of this sentence? "Hallowed."

56 TALKS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER—I

We ought to "hallow" the Name, which means to consider it so sacred that we would speak it in only the most reverent and loving way. We ought to be careful about that name in even our thoughts (Read Ps. 19:14, and James 1:22). Write "By thought, word and deed" beneath "Hallowed" on the board.

TALKS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER—II

"Thy kingdom come."—MATT. 6:10.

MATERIALS: A blackboard. A yeast cake. A cup of water and a spoon. A toy pan, half filled with flour. Another containing bread dough which has been raised. Another containing dough which has been raised and kneaded down again. A baked loaf of bread.

THE Jews had been looking so long for the Messiah or king who should deliver them out of their troubles, that when Jesus came, it was hard for His disciples to give up expecting Him to take possession of the throne of the country and reign as an earthly king. But the Kingdom of Heaven is a spiritual kingdom. Jesus did not care to rule over an earthly kingdom which would endure only for a short time. He does not care, now, so much to rule over bodies which will perish in a few years, as He does to rule over souls which will live forever.

Since His kingdom is a spiritual one, it is invisible, and therefore we do not see His armies and His millions of subjects. Nevertheless our Lord has a tremendously large kingdom. People all over this world belong to it. Not everyone belongs yet, however, so when we pray these three words which are on the board, "thy kingdom

come," we are praying for the time to come when "every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord" (Phil. 2:11).

One time when Jesus was trying to make His disciples understand about the kingdom of Heaven, He explained it by mentioning the way a woman makes bread (Matt. 13:33). Have you ever watched your mother or someone else making bread? What is this little object in my hand? A yeast-cake. The Jews used to call yeast leaven. Jesus said that the kingdom of Heaven was like leaven which a woman hid in three measures of meal until the whole was leavened. You have seen your mother break up a yeast-cake like this, and drop it into a cup of water—so—and stir it up—so—and put it down into a pan of flour—so. Now, when a woman leaves a mixture like this over night, what does it look like in the morning? Yes, it looks all bubbly and full of life. It is raised and light like this. (Show pan of raised dough.) The yeast that was put into the flour raised it. What does your mother do when her bread is at this stage? The girls know, I see. She puts in more flour and kneads it down into a hard lump like this (Exhibit kneaded dough). Then when she sets it aside, what happens? It rises again. The yeast that is in the dough is bound to work, and again your mother kneads her bread. She molds it into loaves this time and then what happens? The loaves also rise and then

she bakes them and has bread for her family like this. (Show baked loaf.)

We will draw a heart upon the board to show that the Kingdom of Heaven commences first within us. From our hearts its power goes through our lives, raising them and making them light. Again and again our hearts are pressed downward by troubles, as bread is kneaded till the lightness is all gone from it, but as often they rise up again because of the powerful leaven within them. Nothing can keep a true Christian down long.

Now, we will draw a globe to represent the world. When we pray "Thy kingdom come," we are praying for it to come in all the world as well as in our hearts. Christians are like leaven, or yeast, in the world. A few of them in a place gradually leaven the whole community. The Christians in the world will in time leaven all the earth's population. The world is a big place and it is not all leavened yet. The Kingdom of Heaven has enemies which are working against it just as visible, earthly kingdoms have enemies. These enemies attack both within and without. I will write the names of some of these enemies.

What have I written? Selfishness, Indolence, Impurity. Selfishness is always trying to creep into a heart. We like to be comfortable. We like to possess many fine things and have good times all the while, but Self cannot occupy the

throne of the Kingdom of Heaven. One of the principal rules of the kingdom is that its subjects must try constantly to make *others* comfortable and happy. What does this big word, Indolence, mean? Laziness. If we want the kingdom of Heaven in our hearts we must not be lazy, but keep busy about the King's business all the time. Impurity is sure to drive the kingdom away if we allow it to get into our hearts. God cannot stay with us if the home we offer Him is not clean. Now, under the picture of the world I will write the names of three enemies which attack from without, as these others attack from within. What are my words? Intemperance, Greed, Pride. These three are among the greatest evils Christians have to fight in the world today. You are not too young to commence giving blows to these enemies now, and as you grow older and the Kingdom of Heaven grows strong and powerful in your own hearts and lives, you can help to drive these fearful enemies from the world.

TALKS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER—III

"Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven."—
MATT. 6:10.

MATERIALS: A handful of broken glass, brightly coloured. A sharp, shining knife. Some pink or white pills. A bottle of dark coloured medicine.

WITHIN each one of us there is something called a will. When a baby is very small it will stay where it is placed and people can do whatever they wish with it, since it has no will of its own. But just as soon as its mind begins to develop a little bit it begins to show its will. It makes objections, even if it does not get its own way, and so we see that it has a will of its own. God could have made us differently but He preferred to give us wills, and let us have the privilege of yielding these wills to Him. But a great many people are not willing to have God's will done in their lives. They want their own way and when God thwarts them they are angry and say He does not love them.

Do you see these brilliant pieces of glass? They are pretty, are they not? Suppose you had brought your baby-brother with you today. What would he do when he saw this glass? Yes, he would plunge both dimpled hands into the pile and

grasp the pieces of pretty glass. And what then? Ah, he would scream and his little hands would be cut and bleeding and perhaps scarred for life. But, wait a moment. Perhaps, after all, he would not get hurt because you would hold the glass out of his reach, no matter how he cried for it and how angry he got with you. Would you be unkind in doing this? Certainly not. Neither is God unkind when He withholds things from us even when we want them. He knows what will hurt us and we do not. We want things that look bright to us and we do not know how to choose for ourselves. We are like the baby.

Here is another thing that would take your baby brother's fancy if he were here. (Show knife.) This blade is bright and shining, but it is dangerous to handle because it is very sharp. If it is taken by the handle—so—it will not hurt the one who holds it, but even then it might do harm to other people if the holder were not careful. The baby would probably grasp it first by the shining blade and so hurt himself, or, if he happened to take hold of it properly he would slash around so recklessly with it that he would hurt someone else. The only safe way would be to keep the knife away from him altogether. That is the way it is when God denies His children things that they want very much. We do not know any more compared to what God knows than a baby knows compared to what the wisest person on earth

knows. So, in His great goodness and kindness, God does not give us our own way always.

Now, tell me what these pretty things are. Candy? Oh, no, although I thought you would say that. These are little things which would do some of you good and do some of you harm. Why would they not affect you all alike? Because you are different from one another. Sometimes people find fault with God because He gives some of the people of earth things which look very good (and which *are* good for those He gives them to), and He does not give them to others. That is because we are all different.

This pretty, pleasant-tasting medicine is a tonic, and it is good for some people, but other people need a tonic like this. (Show bottle of dark medicine.) This is bitter. If a doctor gave you medicine like this unpleasant-looking stuff and gave your brother sweet and pretty pills like these, you, while you might wish the case were different, would have good sense enough not to blame the doctor. You would be glad to have him give you the kind of medicine that you needed, even though it were not as pleasant as the kind he gave your brother. If we can trust a doctor, can we not trust our Heavenly Father? Let us do God's will, and love and trust God's will just as the angels in Heaven do. We cannot imagine the bright angels above being anything but submissive and sweet about obeying the will of the King of Heaven.

TALKS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER—IV.

“Give us this day our daily bread.”—MATT. 6:11.

MATERIALS: A Bible and a loaf of bread.

WHEN you see this loaf of bread on the table before us you can easily guess what sentence of the Lord's Prayer we are going to talk about. The words, “Give us this day our daily bread,” are so plain that it is easy to understand them, and how pleasant they are! To think that Jesus knows and cares about our being hungry, and that He has told us where to go to ask for bread, makes us love Him more than ever. When you come home from school, hungry, and want a piece of bread, you go to mother and ask for it, don't you? Or to sister, or aunt, or whoever is in the habit of giving it to you? But are your human friends really the givers of the bread? Of course they are in one way, and they deserve your thanks. Father earned the money to buy the flour and mother made and baked the loaves, but who was back of father and mother? God, of course. It was God who made the seed with the wonderful germs of life in it. It was God who made the ground in which it grew. It was God's rain and sunshine that watered and warmed the soil. It

was God who made the great rivers whose waters flow over the mill-wheels, making them go around and grind the grain into flour. It is easy to see that all our bread comes to us from God.

Notice this little word "us." Jesus did not teach us to pray, "Give *me* this day my daily bread." Some boys and girls have no parents. Some have sickness and poverty in their homes. If we pray "Give *us* this day our daily bread," we are really praying for all those poor little people too, as well as for ourselves. So if God sends us plenty of bread and we can find around us anyone who has not got enough, He wants us to carry some of ours to them.

Besides the loaf of bread we have something else on the table. Yes, a Bible. Why am I showing you a Bible when we are talking about this part of the Lord's prayer? Because the Bible is bread, too. I do not mean the leather cover, nor the leaves of paper, of course, but the Gospel which it contains. Jesus calls Himself the "Bread of Life" (John 6:33, 35). Just as our physical self depends upon food like this loaf of bread, so our spiritual self depends upon Jesus for its health and strength. If we go without eating bread and other physical food for awhile our bodies grow weak and sickly. If we should go without it long enough, our bodies would die. Just so, our spiritual selves grow weak and sickly if we do not feed upon Jesus. If we neglect Him long

enough we die spiritually. A person may be very strong physically, and very weak and near starvation spiritually.

Which is the more important part of us to feed? Yes, the spiritual part. So, while we pray God for our physical bread and while we enjoy it and are nourished physically by it, let us not forget to ask Him for spiritual bread and let us not neglect to feed upon what He furnishes us. We need to be constantly feeding upon the spiritual bread if we want our souls to grow strong. Our bodies would not remain healthy if we ate only one meal a week. Neither can our souls grow strong if we only draw strength from Jesus on Sundays. We need Him every day and many times a day. The more we talk to Him, and think about Him, the more our appetites for spiritual bread will grow. While you are children is the very best time to get into the habit of having Jesus all the time with you. Speak to Him often. Tell Him about your play and work. Ask Him to show you how to do things to please Him. Never go anywhere you cannot ask Him to go too. Never say anything you do not want Him to hear. Never do anything you cannot ask Him to help you do. Then you will feel His presence constantly, and your soul will feed upon the Bread of Life. The Bible itself is not the Bread of Life, but it tells about Jesus, Who is. That is why we have used it to represent spiritual bread today.

TALKS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER—V

“Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.”—
MATT. 6:12.

MATERIALS: A piece of white paper. A small bottle of tincture of iodine. An ink eraser. A knife. A little bottle of saturated solution of hyposulphite of soda. A slate, pencil and sponge.

WHEN you and I think about the many times each day that we say and do things that are wrong, we realize how much we need to pray, “forgive us our debts.” But when we finish the sentence and say, “as we forgive our debtors,” it would be well for us to stop and think pretty seriously; for are we forgiving other people in just the way we should like to have God forgive us? Jesus said that unless we forgave people who offended us God would not forgive us our sins (Matt. 6:15), and in this prayer we are asking God to forgive us in just the same kind of a way that we forgive people. Since this is the case we ought to be very careful how we do our forgiving. For instance: suppose we pray this prayer, and then our friend Billy comes running in and says, “Oh, I’m very sorry, but I’ve broken your bat.”

If we, remembering that unless we forgive

Billy, God will not forgive us, say, "Oh, never mind, Bill, that's all right," but in our hearts think: "But that's the last time I'll ever lend you anything of mine, Bill Brown," we are really asking God to forgive us our sins but refuse to do us any more favours.

Or, if we pray this prayer and then meet Blanche on the street and she says, "I am very sorry indeed, but I did you a wrong the other day. Please forgive me." If we forgive her verbally but, secretly, in our hearts, hold a grudge against her and never like her again, we are asking God to forgive us our sins, but to dislike us ever after. Or if Jack tells a lie about us and then owns up and says he is sorry, and if we say we forgive him and yet think, "All the same I'll get even with you some day for that," we are asking God to forgive us and yet punish us.

This makes us feel quite serious, doesn't it? It is so hard to forgive people sometimes. But since God makes our forgiveness of others a condition of His forgiveness of us, we have no choice in the matter; we have got to learn how to forgive, and forgive right.

I have a piece of paper here. I will make some blots upon it. (Moisten cork with iodine and set it upon the paper in one or two places.) These blots represent sins. If we have sins upon the record of our lives we want them taken away, and we do not want a trace of them left. Here is an

ink eraser. Just take these blots off for me, please. Here, also, is a knife if you prefer it. You see that by careful working you can erase the blots, but what a rough, scratched paper is left!

We don't want any sin scars left on our life records. Every time we looked at them they would give us unpleasant thoughts. Let me show you a better way. (Make more blots and remove them by moistening the other cork with hypo-sulphite of soda and applying it to the blots.) Now the paper is not scarred and the blots have disappeared. God is willing to forgive us and do it so fully and freely that our sins are wiped out, just like this, (hold up the slate, which should have the word "sins" written on it. Brush the sponge quickly across the word) (Isa. 43:25). It is blessed to know that we can be forgiven in this way, but we must never forget that we have our own part to do. Of course God understands that we are human and of course our forgiveness may never be as perfect as His, but we must satisfy Him by doing our level best at forgiving, if we dare to pray this sentence in the Lord's Prayer.

TALKS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER—VI

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”—MATT. 6:13.

MATERIALS: Some wheat mixed with chaff. Some wheat heads. A sieve.

DOES it seem strange to you that we have to pray our Heavenly Father not to lead us into temptation? Does God, who loves us so, want to tempt us? The original, or first, meaning of the word “tempt” was to try; to make trial of; to test; to prove. Therefore in this part of the prayer we are really asking God not to test us. It is a prayer of humility and self-distrust. You sometimes dread tests in school, don’t you? Maybe you dread them so much that you would like to ask the teacher to excuse you from them. But would you get on as well at school without tests? Certainly you would not, and in the school of life we also need testing. God wants to see if we are perfect through and through. If there is evil in us He wants to take it out.

He is like a farmer threshing his grain. Were you ever on a farm at threshing-time? Did you ever see the engine and threshing machine and crew of men come into the field? Threshing days

are great times on a farm. Inside the house mother and the girls are cooking great quantities of food and setting long dining tables for the men, while outside father and the big boys are hurrying about the place. The little boys usually stand around, getting in the way and admiring the engine. If the wheat could feel and talk it would probably beg to be saved from the threshing, but wheat must be separated from the chaff if it is to be good for anything.

I can illustrate in a small way. This wheat (show wheat mixed with chaff) would not be fit to be ground into flour while in its present state. I put it into this sieve and sift it, and, see, the wheat and chaff are separated. The threshing machine does more than we can do here. It takes into one end wheat like this (show wheat in the head) and pours it out of the other end, down into the sacks like this (show cleaned wheat kernels). God tests His people not because He wants to hurt them, but because He wants to make them clean and free from evil. We are tested every day in little things, often when we do not realize we are being tested at all. Then, at other times, we have our special trials and temptations, as Abraham did when he was ordered to offer up his son as a sacrifice, and as Job did when all kinds of dreadful afflictions came upon him.

It is one thing, however, to endure a test that God sends upon us and another thing to rush into

one of our own making. God will never send us a test which is too hard for us (1 Cor. 10:13), and He will stand by and give us His help while we are enduring any test which He allows. But if we get full of conceit and think we are good enough to stand firm in our own strength, and so enter places of temptation when God did not lead us there, we will surely fall. We ought to be so afraid of evil and so distrustful of our own strength that we will shrink from going into testing places—shrink so much that we will pray God not to lead us into them. What are the words which follow? “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” When, for our own good, God does lead us into a test, we need fear no evil, for He will never leave us alone at such a time. To be sure there are many things to dread in the world, like sickness, poverty, pain, sorrow, accidents, death, and, worst of all, sin, but God has power to deliver us from everything evil, and to make all things work for our good (Rom. 8:28).

TALKS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER—VII

"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."—MATT. 6:13.

MATERIALS: A diamond. (One set in a ring will answer the purpose.) A blackboard picture of a crown and scepter, or these objects cut from cardboard.

THE Lord's prayer is filled with deep and wonderful petitions. Any boy or girl who repeats it thoughtfully might well feel hopeless of being able to live up to its high standard, if it were not for the encouraging words of the closing sentence.

What have we drawn upon the board today? A crown and a scepter. These things make us think of kings, do they not? Here is a diamond. Stones like this are very valuable. If some person told you or me to go out and purchase for ourselves a diamond, perhaps we would have to say that it was impossible for us to do so. But if, at the same time, that person should show us a large amount of money, and tell us that it was ours for the asking, we would know that diamonds or any other valuable things could be ours if we wanted them. The One Who taught us the great prayer we have been studying is King of all the universe. His is the Kingdom. His also is all power in Heaven and in earth. He can give us grace and

strength enough to hallow His name, to do His will in all things, to trust Him for our daily needs, to forgive as we would be forgiven, to endure testing, and to walk safely through all the evil that we meet. We may be weak and helpless, and sinful in ourselves, but the power of the mighty king is at our disposal. It will be no credit to us if we succeed, by His power, in living the Christ life. The glory also is His. We must never feel proud of ourselves when we have lived a day according to God's will. Without His power to help us we never could have done it. His is the kingdom and the power and we should give Him also the glory.

Here is this word "forever." It gives us wonderful thoughts. The reign of earthly kings is limited by years. No matter how good a king may be, nor how helpful his reign, the time comes when he must die. But the kingdom and the power and the glory of our Lord are forever. We may serve our King here on earth, where at times we have to struggle to do right, and where we cannot see Him plainly and have to walk by faith, but it is not only here that we shall serve Him. By-and-by, we shall go home to the place where we shall see His glory in all its wonder, and forever and ever we can go on living under His loving reign.

Now look at the little word at the end of the prayer. What does "Amen" mean, and why do

we always end all our prayers with the word? "Amen" means "so be it." Perhaps you have sometimes heard people say "Amen" aloud in church, when the minister was praying. When people say "Amen" it means that they, too, want God to do what the person who is praying aloud asks Him to do. If you listen carefully to a person's prayer, and say "Amen" in your heart, you make that person's prayer your own. This is very good to know, isn't it? Because some people can make such wonderful prayers, and put into words so many things we would like to pray for if we knew how. So it makes it very pleasant for us when we listen to other people's prayers to know that they are our own prayers too if we simply say "Amen," even though we say it quietly in our own hearts, where only God can hear it.

MIND PICTURES

"If therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness"—MATT. 6:22, 23.

MATERIAL: A kodak.

Do not think I am going to take your pictures. I brought the kodak with me today for a different purpose. If I point this little box at a scene or a person, and press this little button, allowing the shutter to open before the lens for a second, more or less, I shall obtain, on the sensitised film which is in the back of the kodak, a picture of the scene or person I pointed the kodak towards. What do you suppose this lens makes me think of? It makes me think of the bright eyes I see before me; and the film which is in the back of the kodak and which receives impressions so quickly, reminds me of the wonderful and exceedingly sensitive brains which lie behind these eyes of yours.

You are like kodaks, boys and girls, and as you go about, day by day, you are taking pictures through your eyes, upon your brains. I will take the roll of film out and show you how it looks. See, it looks like a piece of black paper. The film, which I will not spoil by opening in the daylight,

is inside the black paper. This roll of film will hold but twelve pictures. Therefore if I have no more rolls, I ought to be very careful what kind of pictures I take on this one. If I should go for a walk, taking the kodak with me, and should carelessly pass all the artistic, beautiful scenery, and fill my roll of films with worthless views, I should feel quite dissatisfied when it was developed, should I not?

But who could I blame but myself? If we, as we go through life, fill our minds with pictures that are not good, skipping the beautiful ones we might take, we shall feel dissatisfied in our old age, when we look over our mind-pictures, and then whom can we blame but ourselves? Two people, carrying kodaks, might walk side by side during a day, and one might fill his roll of films with beautiful pictures and the other waste his on just the opposite kind. So, two people might walk side by side through life, and one fill his mind with beautiful pictures and the other fill his with just the opposite.

When a mind is filled it will take no more pictures, and there is no way of changing the pictures that have been taken. If I open the shutter of this kodak on ugly views, ugly pictures will be developed. If you open your eyes upon ugly things, your mind will receive ugly impressions. If you put your eyes upon a bad book your mind will take a bad picture. If you turn your

eyes upon bad scenes at a moving picture show the bad scenes are printed upon your mind. But if you turn your eyes upon good books, uplifting pictures, beautiful and helpful people and places, your mind will take good impressions.

The shutter of this kodak is a valuable thing. When it is closed over the lens no picture can be taken upon the film. Our wills are like the shutter. We can say, "I will not look at bad things," and so we can protect our minds. It is pleasant on a winter day to look over an album of pictures we have taken during a summer holiday. So it is pleasant for a person to look over his collection of mind-pictures when he is old, and the winter of life has come. I should say that it is pleasant for him to do this if he has been careful all through his life to take only good pictures upon his mind. Some people have not been careful and therefore, when old, they would be glad to erase from their minds some of the pictures that are there; but this is impossible. You, who are young, and have not yet taken many pictures upon your minds, may decide what to take, and what to avoid. Avoid bad places of amusement; avoid bad books and bad company and bad companions; avoid low and cruel sights unless duty plainly calls you where you must view them. Turn your eyes toward all that is good and beautiful (Phil. 4:8) and gain a collection of mind pictures which will be a delight to you when you are old.

BESETTING SINS

"Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us."—HEB. 12:1.

MATERIALS: A rope with the strands so cut that it will break when pulled. A chain with a broken link. A black-board picture of a river and a dike.

THERE is an old Grecian story about a man named Achilles. When Achilles was a child (so the story runs) his mother, fearing he might some day be killed by an enemy, dipped him bodily into the river Styx. The waters of this river made people proof against wounds. In dipping little Achilles into the water his mother held him by one heel, therefore this heel was always Achilles' weak spot, because the water did not touch it. Through his heel, when he was grown, he met his death by an arrow shot by an enemy.

Just as Achilles had a weak spot in his body, we all have weak spots in our characters. See this chain? It looks strong and safe enough to hang a watch upon, but see, (pull it sharply until it parts) at the first strain it breaks. Why, do you suppose? Because it had a weak spot. Here is a rope. One time a man came to a village and advertised a tight rope walking exhibition. A great crowd gathered, and the man stretched a

rope tightly from one side of the street to the other, about as high as the third story windows. All the people held their breaths as the man stepped out, and, balancing himself with a rod in his hands, began slowly walking upon the rope. All went well for the first few yards, then there came a cry of terror from the man, and a cry of horror from the people echoed it, for the rope parted like this (illustrate) and the man fell to the ground. The rope had a weak place in it. A weak place is a serious thing in a rope. A weak place in a character is also a serious thing. The Bible tells us plainly of the weak spots in many otherwise strong and beautiful characters. Moses' weak spot was a violent temper. Peter's was the same. Miriam's was jealousy. Thomas's was doubt—and so on. We are told of these weak spots in order that we may guard against having them in our own characters.

Here is the picture of a river. What is built beside it? A dike. I think you all know that dikes are mounds or walls built to protect low-lying land from being flooded. I am sure, too, that you have all heard of the boy who once saw a tiny hole in a dike and held his finger upon it until help came, although he grew stiff and cramped and weary. If he had allowed the water to flow through the weak spot in the wall, and enlarge it, the whole village would have been destroyed. So if we allow sin to flow into our

lives through the weak places in our characters our souls will be destroyed. Satan is just mean enough to attack us in our weakest places, and he tests us until he finds these spots. Jesus had no weak places in His character. Satan tried in vain to find one. Jesus can strengthen the weak places in us, and He is the only One Who can do it. We cannot do it ourselves. Let us ask Him to make us altogether strong.

OUR GUIDES

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with mine eye."—Ps. 32:8.

MATERIALS: A compass. A large sheet of paper with lines drawn upon it, representing a chart. A Bible.

A COMPASS is a very interesting thing. I am sure you will all want to examine the one I have here. It is a simple enough object to look at, but the fact that this needle, poised so delicately in the center, points always to the north, no matter in what direction you turn the compass, makes it very curious and wonderful. A person having a compass with him cannot become entirely lost, even if he get confused in a blizzard or in the woods, or at sea. A look at the needle will show him which direction north is, and with this knowledge he can guide his steps. A compass is a good illustration of a person's conscience. One never can become entirely lost spiritually if he follows the pointing of his conscience. As the needle in the compass points unfailingly to the north, so the voice of one's conscience directs one always to the right. We cannot all own a compass, but God has generously provided us each with a conscience. To have our bodies lost in some wilderness would

not be half so dreadful as to have our souls lost from God and the right road to heaven. Therefore, we ought to value our consciences very highly, and never fail to follow in the direction they point.

A compass is greatly depended upon at sea. The needle, pointing so faithfully to the north, is relied upon by the pilot of a ship. But seamen have also another guide. Not one which takes the place of the compass, but one which is used in addition to it. I mean a chart. A chart looks something like this (show illustration). It is a map of the ocean, showing dangerous places and safe courses. We, too, have another guide besides our consciences. It is this wonderful Book (show Bible). In this book we are told of paths to beware of, and we are also directed to ways of righteousness and pointed to a plain path to God. Sea captains and pilots spend hours studying their chart of the ocean, and we should spend hours studying the chart which will guide us over the sea of life. Every child should own his own Bible and learn early in life to study it. Our Heavenly Father was good to give us two such valuable guides to heaven.

THE WARNING BELL

“Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets.”—PROV. 1:20.

MATERIALS: Anti-tobacco pledges. An anchor. A black-board picture of a ship at sea, a rock rising from the waves, a fog bell on the rock. A picture of an anchor will do if the article itself cannot be secured.

WHY do you suppose people fix a big bell on a rock in the water? They do it because it is not always daylight and because the weather is not always clear. Dark nights must come and sometimes heavy fogs cloud the ocean. At such times people on shipboard cannot see far ahead, and if it were not for the warning bell unfortunate ships might dash against the great rocks and be wrecked. The bell is a danger signal, and the captain of a vessel hears it ringing when he cannot see and he steers clear of the dangerous rocks that imperil his ship and everyone in it.

There are many evil rocks in the sea of life. One monstrous one has recently been destroyed, or almost so, and that is the rock of the saloon business. The warning bell of the voice of America's people rang so loudly that this great evil has practically been put out of existence. But there are many rocks of sin left yet upon which

young people may wreck their lives. Many good men and women are trying to uproot the rock of cigarette smoking, and they are raising a warning cry that rings around the world. No doubt every boy and girl in this room has already been warned against the use of cigars and cigarettes. Not everyone, however, is wise enough to heed the warning.

What would happen to this ship if its captain should pay no attention to the warning bell? Or, if he said: "Oh, there is plenty of time. I will go on a little farther and then turn out from the rock." What would happen if the captain said, "People are too afraid. I don't believe the rock will hurt my ship. I shall go on straight ahead." In every one of these cases the ship would be lost. It is dangerous for boys or girls to ignore or despise or delay to heed the warnings they hear against any kind of sin. The only safe way is to heed at once.

Here is an anchor. When a ship is in danger and the captain does not know which way to turn he drops an anchor to the bottom of the sea and then he is held safe. A pledge is a good anchor. A boy or girl who has signed a pledge to keep from using narcotics ought to be safe because no honourable boy or girl will yield to the temptation of breaking a solemn pledge.

CONTAMINATION

"Keep thyself pure."—1 TIM. 5:22.

MATERIALS: Some white and red paint. Two sticks.

How many of you ever have dirty hands and faces? Some of us think it is a pity that grown folks object so seriously to a little dirt. Well, what do you do when your hands are dirty? You wash them, of course, and some of us have to do it very often, too, don't we? But what a blessing it is that we can get the dirt off, isn't it? Suppose we had to keep on our hands all the dirt we ever got there. Wouldn't that be dreadful! Now let me tell you something: There is a part of us that we cannot wash when it gets dirty, and that is a very important part of us, too. It is our brain, or our mind.

Once upon a time there was a boy who was very active and fond of pleasure—just as you all are. Whenever this boy heard of anything new that was going on, he wanted to hurry to the spot and see all he could see and hear all he could hear. There is no harm in trying to have all the fun you can, of course, but this boy never waited to find out what kind of places he was going into, and sometimes he saw sights and heard things which

he blushed to think about afterwards. Now, a boy's conscience is a good friend to him, although sometimes it makes him uncomfortable.

One day this boy's conscience was troubling him and reminding him of some things he had seen and heard that he would not like to have his father and mother know about, and the boy felt very uneasy. He wandered about the yard until he came across some pails of paint belonging to a man who was painting his father's house. There was a big pail filled with paint like this (show white paint), and a smaller one filled with paint like this (show red paint). The boy, still listening to the voice of his conscience idly stirred a stick in each pail, like this (illustrate). Suddenly he started guiltily. He had done just what I have done, stained the white paint by putting into it the stick after it had been in the red paint. The boy took to his heels quickly to avoid seeing the painter. But when he was hidden on the other side of the house his faithful conscience pointed out to him that just as he had stained the white paint by letting into it a few drops of the red, so he had been staining the purity of his mind by letting evil things into it. Certain vile songs he had listened to, certain unclean stories he had heard and certain low picture shows he had attended and certain impure books he had read came to his remembrance, and he realized that these things had soiled his mind.

Peeping around the corner of the house and seeing that the painter was still absent, he ran again to the pail of white paint and with a clean stick tried to remove the stains of red from the white. Did he succeed? I have here a clean stick. Let us see if we can get the stains out of our white paint. No; the more we try the worse it gets until the white is all turned to a pale pink colour. Its pure whiteness is gone forever. The boy turned away from the pails, having learned a lesson which I hope every one here has learned today. Our brains cannot be washed like our hands. If we get them soiled the stain clings to them in the shape of memories and we cannot help ourselves. Jesus forgives our sins and cleanses our hearts when we ask him, but he wants us to keep our own minds clean. We can only do it by being very careful not to let unclean things get into them. If bad thoughts or fancies come, shut the door of your mind on them as quickly as you can, and begin to think of something good. If bad books are offered you, refuse them. If you are in a place where unclean or profane talk is going on, walk quickly away. If you are invited to evil places, don't go. Keep pure.

OUR BANK ACCOUNT

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."—PHIL. 4:19.

MATERIALS: A bank book. A check book. Some money.

THERE was once a poor young girl who worked for a wealthy business firm. She was sent to the bank with money to make a deposit for her employers. Did you ever go to a bank? What are banks for? Every person opening an account at a bank receives a bankbook, and also a checkbook, like these (show books). Suppose you had a bank account and these were your books, whenever you went to the bank to put in money, the man at the window, who took your money, would write the amount in this little book where the figures are. Wouldn't you enjoy seeing the account grow larger and larger? It is a good thing to have a bank account. There are savings banks where even little children can put their small savings. I hope many of you already have bank accounts. However, there are some people so situated that they cannot save even one dollar to put into a bank.

The young girl I started to tell you about was one of these people. All the money she earned

was needed in her home. So as she went to the bank for her employers that day she thought about how pleasant it would be if she, too, could have a bank account. She looked very wistfully around the fine building when she entered it, and she began to feel almost sad, when suddenly a text flashed into her mind. It was this: "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matt. 6:20). As she walked back to her work she thought about the text. Heaven must be like a great big bank, she decided, and everyone who wanted to might lay up treasures there. They need not possess money in order to do this either, because, of course, money will not have any value in heaven.

The treasures we lay up in the bank of heaven must be something besides money. What must they be? Good deeds are the treasures we may lay up in heaven, and who is too poor to lay up a wealth of riches of that kind? The young girl entered her place of work cheerful and happy in the thought that she might lay up at least one good deed a day in the bank of heaven. How many would that make in a year? Three hundred and sixty-five! And if she could by any means find three or four kind deeds to do a day, how fast her bank account would grow! I should be glad to hear that each one of you had started an earthly bank account, but I should be still more glad to hear that you had started a heavenly one.

Our Heavenly Father is the Banker, and He is

just as generous as an earthly one. An earthly banker will pay you interest on the money you put into his bank. See, here is the column in your book where the bank clerk will write in your interest. God gives us interest on our good deeds. For instance, if you bring a friend to Jesus you have done a good deed and laid up treasure for yourself in heaven. The friend you brought to Jesus goes to work for Him, and a part of the credit for the good deeds he does, after that, belongs to you; because if you had not brought him to Jesus, he never would have done the good deeds. So, when you get to heaven, you will be surprised and delighted to see how your interest has counted up. You will also get interest in the shape of the warm glow of happiness which comes to you whenever you perform a good deed.

And now let us look at our checkbook again. You see each leaf in this book is a perforated one, so that it can be torn out easily. Every leaf is a check. When a person's name is written on this line, and an amount of money on this line, and the proper signature written on this line, these little pieces of paper are the same as money. They can be exchanged for money at the bank. Now, suppose that you had a very, very rich father and he had a large bank account. If he should give you a checkbook like this, with his name signed at the bottom of all these checks, you could go to the bank and get all the money you wanted. You

could just write upon this line the amount you wished to get and hand the check in at the window and receive the money. We have a very rich father. God is our Father, and everything in the universe is His. He is able to give us everything we need (Phil. 4:19). This kind of riches (show money) is not what He cares the most about giving us, although if we work and trust and pray He will always give us enough of that for our real needs. But He has things in His wonderful bank that are worth far more than money, and the Bible is our checkbook. In it are places where He promises us wonderful things. Every promise is a check and we may go to Him and tell him just how much of the different kinds of things we need, such as power to be good, grace to forgive, a cheerful spirit, faith, hope, love, any kind of spiritual blessing, and it will be handed out to us. Children, learn early to use your checkbooks. Don't be afraid of drawing largely from your Heavenly Father's bank, because the more you want the better He will be pleased. Don't neglect to start early to make deposits in your heavenly bank, too.

WEALTH

“The blessing of the Lord it maketh rich and He addeth no sorrow with it.”—PROV. 10:22.

MATERIALS: Pieces of ore. A gold, a silver and a copper coin.

WE all realize that our Heavenly Father is thinking of us every day and making plans for our comfort and happiness now. But do you all know that God was also thinking of us long before there were any people on this earth? Thousands of years ago, He was making plans for our benefit. See what I have brought to show you, today. These little nuggets are called ore. In this one there are shining streaks which are silver. In this tiny one are flecks of gold. Here is a piece of copper ore. God knew that people would need money, so He thoughtfully placed under the earth and in the mountains His riches of minerals, that men might dig and find them for their comfort and use. We do not use the metal in the shape in which it comes out of the mines. It is put through different processes until it is changed into money like this (show coins).

It is a good thing to have money if one can get it honestly and without being selfish. God made

the gold and silver and copper. They are gifts of His love. I hope that when you are grown up, you will all have a great deal of money. It is only when money is loved for itself that it works evil for its owners. When money is looked upon as a gift from God and is accepted gratefully and used unselfishly it is a source of great blessing. But notwithstanding the fact that money is so good a thing, many people have to live all their lives with very little of it. It is not easy to make a fortune, and unless one inherits money or else is very fortunate indeed in his investments, money comes slowly, and, since there are so many needs for it, melts away rapidly.

Probably all the boys and girls in this room will always feel the need of more money than they will be able to earn. For that reason I wish you would all learn one truth, today, which you will find in Proverbs 13:7. Many people fret and grow discontented because they are poor. This verse tells us that there are some rich people who are poor and some poor people who are rich. Those who have "the blessing of the Lord," that is, His approval, His smile, a realization of His love and constant presence, are rich, no matter how little money they have (Ps. 146:5). On the other hand, people who possess great wealth, yet fail to love and obey God are poor, because gold and silver are not eternal riches like the "unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:8), and

will do their former owners no good on the judgment day (Prov. 11:4). Happiness is not bought by gold and silver. Happiness comes from the possession of a pure heart and from an intimate relationship with God (Prov. 15:16; Prov. 16:8; Ps. 37:16). We may all be rich if we choose. True, some of us may always have to do without quite as much of this kind of wealth as we should like (show coins), but God promises that we shall have enough of even that for our needs, if we trust Him (Matt. 6:25 to end), and to all who ask Him, He is ready and willing to give a wealth of eternal riches.

TITHING

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”—MAL. 3:10.

MATERIALS: Two pocket-books. A five-dollar bill, a fifty-cent piece, a dollar, a dime and a penny.

LONG, long ago, God made a plan regarding His people's possessions. God's plans for us are much better than any plans we can make for ourselves because He is so much wiser than we are. God's plan was, that out of all the possessions or riches that He gave His people, they should give Him back one-tenth. Of course, God does not need to have anything given to Him, because all things in the universe belong to Him, anyway. But He knew it was good for people to give, and besides it is a little hard for some people to give, so the giving is a test of character. In the old days, people's possessions consisted mostly of flocks and herds. Nowadays, folks generally have their wealth in the shape of something which can be carried in things like these (show pocket-books). Of course, you know what these are. What is inside of them? (Open and show money.) God's plan is still the best plan for His

people, and you and I are some of His people, aren't we?

So we need to think about the plan. Unless people give systematically (make sure all understand this word), they are liable sometimes to think they have given more than they have. A tenth does not seem much to give to God out of all He gives to us, does it? Let us see now. Here is a five-dollar bill. Suppose God gives me the strength and opportunity to work and earn that money, how much would I be giving back to Him if I gave a tenth? Those of you who have studied fractions say fifty cents. Yes. Here is a half-dollar. If God gives me five dollars I ought to be glad to give Him back the half of one dollar. Here is a dollar. What is a tenth of that? A dime, and this penny is a tenth of a dime. I have here two pocket-books. A very good way is to own two purses and keep your own money in one and your tithe money, or God's money, in the other, like this (Put large money in one purse and small pieces in the other). Of course you children do not have much money, but no doubt you often earn a little or have some given to you. It is much better for you to commence early to follow out God's plan for you and your money than to wait until you are older. If you form the habit now when you have only a little money it will be easier for you to tithe when you are big and have a good deal of money (Prov. 22:6).

Perhaps by your example you may be able to influence some grown people to do as you are doing with your money (Prov. 20:11). God has promised (Mal. 3:10) that if we tithe He will prosper us more than He would if we did not remember Him, but selfishly and ungratefully keep all the money He gives us for ourselves. Thousands of people who do tithe testify that God keeps this promise; but to tithe in order that we may be prospered, is a very poor reason for tithing. We ought rather to tithe because we love God well enough to want to obey His every command. People who tithe in this spirit get greater satisfaction and happiness in so doing. They enjoy the nine-tenths of their money much more than they would enjoy the whole amount if they kept it. If you will get a little pocket-book, or a little box, and put into it a penny for God every time you get a dime for yourself, or three cents every time you get a quarter, or ten cents when you are fortunate enough to have a dollar, you will be tithing, and I feel sure you will enjoy it. It will be a sacrifice for you to part with the tenth, but if you will just pause when you feel unwilling to give, and think for a moment about how much Jesus has sacrificed for you, the unwilling spirit will get ashamed of itself and fly away, and you will be glad to tithe. Form the good habit of tithing as soon as you can, and you will never regret it.

JESUS AS A BOY

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man.”—LUKE 2:52.

MATERIALS: Clothing such as Jewish boys in the Holy Land wear. A blackboard picture of a fenced-in garden, wherein shrubs and plants are growing thrifitly; and an uncultivated space of ground outside the garden whereon are growing stunted and gnarled plants and shrubs.

IN Palestine, the Holy Land, lies a pretty town at the foot of a green hill. In this town Jesus lived when He was a boy. Who can tell me the name of this town?

Can you realize that Jesus was once a child like you? Do you ever try to imagine how He must have looked, and felt and acted? What kind of a boy do you suppose He was? Joseph was not a rich man. He was a carpenter working for his living, so Jesus probably lived in about such a house as little peasant boys in Nazareth live in now. These houses are not as comfortable or pleasant as the ones you live in, but still travelers tell us that they are somewhat attractive, with their white roofs, many of which have green vines growing over them. The rooms are few, and small, some of them having ledges which run round the sides. The people sleep on the ledges

at night, and in the daytime their quilts are rolled up and left upon the ledges. Here also stand the earthen dishes which are used for food. Most of the houses have red clay water jars standing by the door. Green leaves or branches are usually thrust into these jars to keep the water cool. Jesus did not dress as the boys in this country dress. Nowadays little boys in Nazareth wear bright-coloured tunics, and sashes, like this (show clothing), and sometimes loose jackets of white or blue. Upon their feet they wear sandals, which are left at the door when they enter a house.

Jesus probably dressed in about the same fashion when He lived in Nazareth. Pretty green hills rise all around Nazareth, and I think Jesus liked to play upon these hills, with other children, in the soft grass among the wild flowers. There is a fountain in that town called "The Virgin's Fountain," in honour of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and no doubt Jesus often played about this fountain when He went with His mother for water. Not all of Jesus' time was spent in play, however, for little Jewish boys were required to study, and also to help their parents. Jesus probably had many disagreeable tasks to perform every day, just as you have. He must have had to work and study inside when the sun was shining brightly outside and when He longed to be playing out on the hills or under the olive, fig or pomegranite trees where the birds were singing. It is

not always best for children to be where they want to be most.

In this picture we see some plants and shrubs which are growing in a garden which is fenced in, and some which are growing outside. Which are prospering the best? Why? Because the gardener cultivates the ones in the garden, but no one takes care of the ones outside. The gardener hoes and waters and supports and prunes and in every way trains the garden plants, but if a plant outside gets trampled down, there is no one to lift it up again. If one gets bent there is no one to straighten it, so it grows crooked. Just as plants thrive better inside than outside of a garden, so boys and girls grow better spiritually inside than outside of God's kingdom. When Jesus was twelve years old He sought His Father's house, and I am sure He would be pleased if all of you would make sure, by that age, that you are inside the kingdom of God. If you feel that you are Christians it would be well for you to join the Church. Inside the Church are ministers and teachers and Christian friends who will help you to grow straight and sturdy in your spiritual life.

Very little is told in the Bible about Jesus' childhood, but of one thing you may be sure. All the trials and temptations which come to you came to Him also (Heb. 4:15), and He knows just how you feel under all circumstances. Try to be the kind of a child He was and ask Him to help you

to be so. Rest assured that Jesus never did a mean action. He never told a lie; never was cruel, selfish or unkind. He was obedient and dutiful (Luke 2:51), and was loved by God and man (Luke 2:52).

JESUS AS A MAN

“Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.”—
1 PET. 2:22.

MATERIALS: Two branches; one straight, one crooked. Two twigs. A diamond. A small basket. Slips of paper having words written on them. Words indicated in the following talk.

LAST Sunday we talked about Jesus as a boy. Did you try to be like Jesus this week? Didn't it make all the hard things easier to think, "Jesus used to have to do these things too?" and didn't it make all the world more beautiful and interesting to think that Jesus used to enjoy the birds, and flowers, and grass, and all such things just as we do?

Now, today, we are going to talk about the kind of a man Jesus was. Children do not remain boys and girls forever. After awhile, if they live, they become men and women. What kind of a man do you suppose Jesus was? What kind of men and women do *you* want to be? See these two branches? Why do you suppose one is crooked and one is straight? Yes—they grew so. "As the twig is bent so is the tree inclined," is an old saying. Now see whether you can bend this straight branch into the crooked shape and make

it stay so. No, nor can you make the crooked one straight. Here are two twigs. They are easily bent and twisted. If a twig on a tree is bent and remains so while it is growing it becomes hardened in its crooked shape, like this branch, but if it is allowed to grow straight while it is young it will remain straight when it is old. People are like twigs. If they keep straight and good while they are growing they will be good people when they are grown, but if they become bent and warped by sin when they are boys and girls they will be evil men and women. This is not my own thought. For many years this illustration had been used by preachers and teachers, but perhaps you have never thought about it.

Here is a diamond. A diamond is valuable according to its purity. If a diamond has flaws in it it is not considered fit for a king's or queen's crown, or for a place in any expensive piece of jewelry, but it is sold cheap. Most people have flaws in their characters somewhere. Many people become somewhat crooked as they get older. But Jesus was without a flaw. He was perfect. If you want to become good men and women do not take a human being for your example; take Jesus. Jesus was the only perfect man who ever lived. Here is a little basket. Let us place it upon the table and into it put slips which tell of some of Jesus' characteristics which we would do well to copy. The slips are numbered. Let the ones who

have them read them in order and drop them into the basket.

1. Jesus was a strong man. That He was strong physically is shown by the accounts of the hardships He endured during the last years of His life, but His chief strength was spiritual. He was the strongest man spiritually who ever lived.

2. Jesus was a brave man. With the bitterest of enemies surrounding Him, he dared to go straight ahead in the path of duty. No danger nor suffering daunted Him.

3. Jesus was tender-hearted. Great strength did not make Him hard. He was so tender and loving that little children flocked around Him, and sick and unhappy people thronged about Him for help, which He never refused.

4. Jesus was helpful. He never saw a person in trouble without doing His best to help him.

5. Jesus was sympathetic. He was never too tired to listen to people's troubles. He was never too busy to comfort and sympathize.

6. Jesus was faithful and true. Although Satan offered Him all the world's pleasures, He remembered His mission on earth and resisted every temptation.

7. Jesus was obedient. Although He shrank from some of the trials that were coming to Him, just as we should shrink from them, He said to God, "Thy will, not mine, be done."

8. Jesus was forgiving. Although greater

wrongs were done Him than were ever done any other person, He fully and freely forgave His enemies.

9. Jesus was loving. Not only good and lovable people were taken into His heart, but He gave a place there to every human being.

10. Jesus was sacrificing. His love led Him to not only sacrifice the pleasures and glory of heaven for a season, but finally to lay down His life for us all.

Who could help admiring so grand a man as Jesus Christ? In Him we have a model if we want to grow into splendid manhood and womanhood. Remember, the way to become good men and women is to start by being good boys and girls. Jesus was a perfect boy, before He was a perfect man.

JESUS AS A SAVIOUR

“For there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved.”—ACTS 4:12.

MATERIALS: Some branches bearing currants, grapes, cherries or other fruit. A root.

JESUS was the most perfect man who ever lived. Nevertheless, had He been only a man we should have no reason to hope for salvation through Him. But Jesus was more than a man. We do not know how early the knowledge came to Him that He was the Son of God. It may be that while He was but a boy, working, studying, playing and growing like other boys, the wonderful secret began to be revealed to Him. Perhaps as He roamed the quiet hills, alone with God and the beauty of Nature, God told Him the great truth. No matter how it was, suddenly or gradually, in the sunshine or in the quiet night, somehow Jesus learned that while Mary was His mother, God, the mighty Creator of all, was His father. Jesus was divine as well as human, and thus it is that He has power to save us. We are alive and happy now, to be sure, and perhaps you cannot see why we need to be saved from anything. But the physical part of us will not live forever. Even

if we escape disease and accident for a good many years, at last old age will destroy our bodies. But our souls may be saved from death by Jesus and may live for ever and ever.

I have some branches here. Does not this fruit look beautiful among the green leaves? Why are these branches alive? If I lay them upon the table here shall we find them still alive next Sunday? If I had left them on the bushes where I found them would they still be alive next Sunday, if no one else broke them off? Here is a root. The root is the Saviour of the branch. There is life in the root and as long as the branch is connected with the root it will live, but separated from it, it must die. As the root gives life to the branches, so Jesus gives life to His people. All of us who connect ourselves with Him are saved from death. We need never die, but our lives may go on and on, growing more happy and beautiful in the new bodies that He will give us after our present bodies wear out.

It is only people who do not let Him save them who die spiritually. These branches could not help my breaking them off, but people have reason and will-power, and they can resist those who attempt to separate them from Jesus, their Saviour. Jesus is all-powerful and as long as we trust ourselves to His saving power, nothing in the universe can separate us from Him (John 10:29). That Jesus can save you now and

eternally is a wonderful fact, and when you have realized it and accepted him as your Saviour you will be blessed indeed. You do not have to do anything yourself. Jesus has done it all. We are told that "Salvation is free" (Rev. 21:6; Rev. 22:17). It is true that salvation is free to us. We do not have to pay Jesus anything for saving us, but Jesus had to pay a great price to buy us. In order that we might be saved from eternal death, Jesus had to suffer and die on the cross. Jesus is our Saviour. Let us love Him and serve Him all our lives.

JESUS CRUCIFIED

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time, Christ died for the ungodly."—ROM. 5:6.

MATERIALS: A wooden cross. Little cardboard crosses to give to each of the children, with the words "Christ died for me," upon them.

WHEN God created the world He made it good and beautiful. When He created people He made them good also, but He gave them the power to choose between being good and being bad. Unfortunately they chose to be bad. Heaven is a wonderful place. It is beautiful past the power of words to describe. God is holy and the angels are sinless and it is all so pure and lovely that there is no place there for anything tainted with sin. God is love, but He has a sense of justice also, and it would not be just for Him to allow disobedient, sinful creatures to come to heaven to live unless they had been punished for the disobedience and unless their sins had been washed away and their souls made clean.

God was very sorry for sinful people. He looked away through all the years that were to come and saw all the people who were ever to live. He saw you and me, and He loved us so dearly that He was willing to give up His dearest. He

gave His only Son to die for us. Let us all repeat John 3:16. Jesus also loved us. He gave up heaven, with its pearly gates and golden streets; He gave up happiness and glory that was too great for us even to imagine, to come to earth and die for us.

Jesus lived for thirty-three years in a human body like ours, a body that was subject to pain and weariness, hunger and thirst and every discomfort that we suffer. He was a baby, then a boy, then a man. He was tempted to sin just like we are tempted, but He fought against Satan and never sinned. He was so poor that He had no place to lay His head. Enemies arose against Him. Wicked people abused, and mocked, and finally killed Him. See what we have before us. A cross. You all know the story of the Cross. We will not talk about all the terrible details. Let us just remember that upon a cruel cross Jesus, the sinless loving Son of God, died for you and me.

I have here a little cross for each of you to take home. What are the words upon the cross? Let us look at this little cross every day this week and remember the great sacrifice that Jesus made for us. Jesus, who never sinned, took the punishment for our sins. Jesus died that we might live. Because He died we can pray God to forgive our sins "for Jesus' sake," and because Jesus died on the Cross, God will wash away our sins and give us eternal life. Because Jesus died upon the Cross

we may go to heaven to live after we are through with this life on earth. How we love Jesus when we think of it! How we long to thank Him! We feel that we want to give all our hearts and lives to Him and to try in every way to please and obey Him.

JESUS RISEN FROM THE DEAD

"But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept."—1 COR. 15:20.

MATERIALS: Kernels of wheat and corn. Stalks of same. Flower seeds and flowers. Nuts and branches of trees. A picture of the Ascension.

WE have studied about Jesus as a boy and Jesus as a man. We have talked about how He wanted to save us and how He died for us all. We are going to think, today, about His rising from the dead. See, here is a picture of Jesus going to heaven. He is leaving His wondering, sorrowing disciples on the earth and ascending up, up, up into the beautiful blue sky. How much sadder the disciples would have felt as they saw Him gradually disappear from their sight, had they not known that they could presently follow Him to His heavenly home. "Where I am, there ye shall be also," He had told them, so they patiently turned away to finish their work on earth.

Parting is always sad. Sooner or later, death parts all who love each other on earth. One dies out of a family, or circle of friends, and the rest are left to miss the loved presence. We, and our friends, will not ascend to heaven in exactly the

manner that Jesus did. If we are still alive when He returns we shall be caught up, in the twinkling of an eye, to meet Him in the air; or, if we die before that great day comes, we shall pass away in the same manner that we have seen other people go. I have here some kernels of wheat. If we should put one of these kernels in the ground what would happen? It would die, but it would arise from the dead. It would look differently, of course. See, this is the way it would look. (Show stalks of wheat.) The same life that was in the little kernel would now be in a more beautiful body. Here is a kernel of corn. If we should bury this it would die, but it would live again in this shape. (Show stalk of corn.)

The same thing would happen with these flower seeds. See how small and unattractive they are now? If they should be buried in the ground the bodies that surround the germs of life that are in these little seeds would die, but the life would go on in the bodies of beautiful flowers like these. (Show flowers.) How much more desirable a body a flower makes for the life that is in that seed than the seed did. Just as a giant tree—such a tree as I broke these branches from—makes a grander body for the life that was once in a nut like this, than the little nut made. As the grain and seeds and nuts die and the life that is in them goes into more beautiful bodies and keeps on, so we shall some time die out of these bodies we are

now living in and live again in more beautiful bodies.

We do not know exactly what these bodies will be like. They may be made out of the same materials our present bodies are made of and look almost like these do; but there is time for us to find out all that by and by. We do know that the new bodies will not be subject to pain or sickness and that they will never die. In those bodies we shall live in heaven with Jesus. Jesus is the One Who makes this wonderful thing possible for us. If Jesus had never risen from the dead, we never could have risen. Jesus is the only One Who can take us safely through this change. With Him for our Saviour we have nothing to fear. Death cannot hold us. Nothing can harm us. We may be happy and live for ever and ever with Him.

OUR PATTERN

"Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow his steps."—1 PET. 2:21.

MATERIALS: A doll. Doll's clothes, some made by a pattern, well-fitting; others made without a pattern, poorly fitting. Pattern of a doll's dress.

How funny it seems to you to see a doll in Sunday school! We are not going to play with dolls today. We are only going to look at dolly's clothes and talk about them a little. Perhaps you may think that talking about doll-clothes in Sunday school is as bad as playing with dolls would be. Clothes are thought about and talked about too much sometimes, not only on Sundays, but on week days too. God wants us to think more about our bodies than about the fashion of the clothes we wear upon them; and more about our souls than about our bodies.

To be neatly and attractively dressed is always right, and this doll's dress is a well-fitting and pretty one, isn't it? I have some other dresses for the doll here. I will put on a different one. There, what do you think of her now? Why, what is the matter? The dress does not fit, you say? She looks ridiculous. Well, you are right; she does. (Show pattern.) Here is something

which was used for an example when the first dress was made, but which was neglected when the others were cut. You and I would look as ridiculous as the doll does if our clothes were made without a pattern. We need a pattern when we make clothes, and we also need a pattern when we live a life. Our souls are much more important than our bodies, and if we need to take pains and use a pattern when making clothes that cover our bodies, how much more pains we should take to choose the best pattern in making the characters which clothe our souls.

Some boys and girls take their parents for their patterns. They try to make themselves just like their fathers and mothers. Other children take some good friend. Still others copy some historical character, and some give no thought to their characters at all, but grow along from day to day without following any pattern. The ones who pattern after good people are a great deal wiser than those who do not use any pattern at all, but still they are foolish.

No human being who ever lived was perfect. Good as your parents and friends may be, they have some flaws in their characters, and if you pattern after them you are apt to make the same mistakes in your lives that they have made. It is so hard to make a good character, anyway, that the best pattern is none too good. One perfect Being has lived upon earth a life which is a pattern

for us all. You know whom I mean, don't you? Jesus. Jesus made no mistakes. We may safely cut our lives after the pattern of His, and the closer we follow our Pattern the better success we shall have. Even with this great Pattern for our example we shall make mistakes, unless we pray for the personal and constant help which He is always ready to give us.

OUR LIFE ROOMS—A NEW YEAR LESSON

“That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”—2 TIM. 3:17.

MATERIALS: A blackboard picture of two rooms, one furnished, having upon the door the date of the old year. One unfurnished, bearing upon the door the date of the new year.

ONCE upon a time there was a father who had two children—a son and a daughter. One New Year's morning the father told his children that he was going to give them each a present; and great was their delight when they learned that the present was a house. Now, I do not mean a doll's house, such as some of you little girls have immediately imagined. This was a very rich father, and the houses he intended to give his children were real houses, standing upon real ground, and each house had many rooms in it. The children, of course, were delighted, and they wanted to go at once to look at their houses. So, after breakfast, the father took them by the hand and led them to a beautiful part of the city, where they saw two fine houses, standing side by side, on pleasant lots. The children wished to go inside their houses at once, so the father unlocked the doors and took them in.

"Oh," exclaimed the boy, "Our houses have nothing in them."

"No," replied the father, "it is going to be your task to furnish your own houses. I will provide the money, but you must select the furniture yourselves."

The children clapped their hands.

"I can furnish my house in a week," cried the little girl.

"Pooh! I can furnish mine in a day," declared the boy. But the father shook his head.

"No, no, my children," he said. "A house, to be enjoyed, must be furnished thoughtfully, and time and care should be given to the selection of its furniture. When you are of age I shall place in your hands deeds to these places. In the meantime you may furnish your houses a room at a time, giving a year to each room."

The children cried out in dismay at this decision, but soon, in the interest of thinking of how they would furnish their houses, they lost sight of their disappointment at the length of time they must give to the furnishing.

The first year went by. The children's interest kept keen during this period and when, at the end of the year, their father walked with them through their houses, he smiled and was well pleased. The furniture, although chosen with childish taste, was attractive, and the rooms looked pleasant and homelike. The father praised his children, then,

taking a key from his pocket, he locked the doors of the furnished rooms in each house. The children objected to this proceeding.

"We may want to change something in those rooms," they said; but the father shook his head.

"Nothing can be changed in a room after you have furnished it," he said.

The years passed quickly by. Many things claimed the children's attention. School work increased, pleasures were multiplied, and very often the furnishing of their houses was forgotten by the children. During some years, it is true, they put considerable thought upon the furnishing, and when the father viewed those rooms at the end of the years, he found the furniture well selected, the colours harmonious, and the effect very pleasing. But during certain other years so little time and thought was spent upon the furnishing, so carelessly were selections made and furniture sent to the house, that the rooms furnished presented a very unpleasing appearance. Some rooms, for instance, had blue walls, red rugs, tables and chairs which looked badly together, and no books or pictures or any of the finishing touches which help to make a room pleasant to live in.

I shall not go further with this story. It is only an illustration. Now, who can tell me what I have been trying to illustrate? On the board is a picture of a well-furnished room, and, see, there is a date upon the door. It is the date of the year

we have just lived through, is it not? Here is the picture of another room, unfurnished. Upon this door is the date of the new year. We have a very rich Father. God, our Father, has given us—what? A house? No, a life. And our life is divided into something, as a house is divided into rooms. Our life is divided into years and our Father is letting us furnish our lives, a year at a time. A life is furnished with actions and words, and thoughts, and feelings just as a house is furnished with tables and chairs, etc. We have just finished furnishing one of our years. Now God has locked the door upon that year, and we cannot change anything we have put into it. Are we perfectly satisfied with the furniture of last year? Were all the actions we put into it good? Were all the words kind? Were all the thoughts pure and all the feelings right? Perhaps we put some selfishness in there, or some meanness, and we wish we could get it out now. Some day God will unlock all the doors of all our closed years, and how badly we shall feel if the furniture is bad. It is not easy to furnish a year with right things. Unless we keep thinking every day about it, and unless we pray God to advise us and help us, we are almost certain to do and say and think wrong things. 19—is furnished. We cannot undo any actions we put into that year, we cannot unsay any words nor unthink any thoughts. The door of last year is locked and God has the key.

But 19— is still unfurnished. We can be more careful and more prayerful this year than we were last. Let us all try to make a beautiful year of 19—.

A NEW NAME

“And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.”—REV. 22:4.

MATERIALS: Five cents worth of the strongest nitric or muriatic acid. A plain piece of zinc and a piece of zinc over which paraffine has been melted and poured smoothly. A knife. A dish.

REVELATION is a wonderful and mysterious book. It is full of beautiful descriptions which many of us cannot understand the meaning of at all. It tells in some places about the home we are going to live in by and by; that glorious home where all is happiness, and where we shall live on and on for ever and ever with God. Of course when we read about that beautiful home it is not absolutely necessary that we should understand quite all that we read, for we have been told (1 Cor. 2:9) that no matter how much we think or imagine, we cannot half realize how splendid a place heaven is. Therefore, we may give our imagination free rein and think of all the most blissful things we can, knowing all the while that either they or something immeasurably more delightful, are true.

In several places a “new name” is spoken of. (Rev. 2:17; Rev. 14:1; Rev. 22:4; Rev. 3:12.)

The wonder about that new name is enough to furnish us with happy thoughts whenever we want something pleasant to think about. How mysterious it is, and how wonderful! This new name is to be given to those who "overcome," and, moreover, God's own glorious Name is to be written in the foreheads of the victorious ones. When we stand with the great throng around the throne, we want to know that we, as well as others, have this name gleaming upon our brows. The mystery and the wonder of it we do not have to concern ourselves with. God will attend to that, but the overcoming is a part that we need to give a great deal of thought to. Overcoming is not easy. We have a great deal of sin in our own natures to overcome before we can be worthy of a new name. We shall have to struggle and suffer and fight ourselves and Satan if we overcome.

I have here a piece of zinc. When people want to make figures or letters upon zinc they do so by means of a strong acid. Printers and engravers use zinc for what they call etchings. Here is acid such as they use. This acid is very strong, and would burn our flesh like fire if we should spill it upon us. Here is a piece of zinc which I have prepared by melting some paraffin and pouring over it. Would you like to have me write a name upon this zinc now? I will not write any of your names, since I cannot write them all, but I will take this knife and cut the name of our Sunday

school. (With the point of the knife write, through the paraffin, upon the zinc.) Now I will pour acid over the zinc and we will let it stand a moment. (Place the zinc in a dish and flood it with the acid.) If the zinc had feeling, no doubt it would suffer when the acid burned the name into its face. Being protected as it is by the paraffin the acid can burn only where it is necessary that it should be burned in order that the name may be written upon it.

If we allow God His way with us He will burn His Name and our own new name upon our characters while we are here upon earth. It may hurt us, but He will protect us from harm as I have protected the zinc with the paraffin, and only such experiences and trials shall come upon us as are necessary in order that the new name shall be written. I will insert the point of my knife under the paraffin now and peel it off. See, here upon the zinc is written the name of our Sunday school. When the earthliness is slipped off from you and me, and we appear before the throne of God, may the new Name be upon our foreheads.

WHITE GARMENTS

“Let thy garments be always white.”—Eccl. 9:8.

MATERIALS: A child's soiled white dress and sash. A boy's soiled and torn suit of clothes.

ONE time a beautiful, white dress was made. The finest of lawn and the daintiest of lace were its materials, and it was as fresh and pretty as any of the pretty little dresses you girls are wearing today. A pink sash was attached to this beautiful dress, and many a little girl paused to gaze admiringly into the store window where it was displayed for sale. A high price was marked upon it, and an equally high price was placed upon a suit of boy's clothes which appeared in the same window. There is not a boy here who would not have been glad to own that suit. One night burglars broke into that store, and, among other things, the dress and suit were stolen. How angry the storekeeper was! He employed detectives at once and spared no money nor pains until, at last, the burglars were caught and the stolen goods recovered. But, alas! the poor little white dress and the suit were changed. They had been dragged in the dirt until one would hardly recognize them as the same articles which had

once hung in the windows and delighted the passing children.

Once again they were placed in the windows for sale. But, now, they looked like this. (Display soiled clothing.) What kind of prices do you suppose were marked upon them now? Would you pay very high for such a dress and suit? No, indeed. Instead of winning admiration the poor things received only scornful glances from the children, who laughed as they noted the low prices marked upon them. They were so cheap that any one could have bought them now, but no one wanted them.

As God and the angels look down from heaven they see great numbers of spotless, beautiful souls. God cares nothing for dresses and suits of clothes, but He loves a clean, innocent soul. Satan hates a beautiful soul. As soon as he sees a lovely character he longs to spoil it, so he goes around, like a burglar, stealing our souls and ruining them. The souls do not see him, so are not upon their guard, and he takes them unawares. He whispers to a sweet, pure, little girl and prompts her to tell a lie or do a deceitful thing. As soon as she obeys him her soul loses some of its purity, and Satan is glad. He makes a boy think it is manly to smoke and swear and do low, evil things, and as the boy's soul is dragged in the dirt and made vile, Satan laughs. After awhile the souls of the boys and girls whom Satan steals would not be recog-

nized as the same pure and beautiful souls they were before Satan stole them.

I say "stole," because the soul of every boy and girl really belongs to Jesus. He bought us all. The price He paid was His life. But Satan likes to see a person's value go down. Just as the soiled and torn clothing had to be marked down in price, so a boy who has allowed Satan to drag his soul in the dirt, cannot command as high wages or secure as responsible a position in the world as the boy who has kept himself clean. The girl who has allowed her purity to become soiled cannot win as many high-class friends as her spotless sister. She must remain in a lower grade of society. Sin has lowered their value. To be sure these garments may be cleaned. They can be made almost as good as new, although not quite. To be sure a soul may be cleansed by Jesus, no matter how deeply Satan has dragged it in the dirt. The cleansing of Jesus is not like human cleansing; it is thorough and perfect. A soul that has sinned may become absolutely spotless again, but what a risk the sinful soul runs! How does it know it will ever have strength to cry to Jesus if it once lets Satan get a grip upon it? The Bible tells us to keep our garments (meaning our souls) white. Let us be careful and watchful that the great burglar, Satan, does not steal our souls and ruin them.

CAST-OFF GARMENTS

“And as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”—1 COR. 15:49.

MATERIALS: Same as in previous lesson.

ARE you ever afraid, children? Many people are afraid, some of one thing and some of another. More people are afraid of death than of any other thing, I believe. There is one dreadful thing in the world which we ought to be afraid of, and that is sin, but if you really understand death you will know that there is absolutely nothing about it to fear. I have here some children's clothing. Once there were a little boy and girl who wore just such clothing as this. They were looking forward to a grand celebration which was going to take place in their town, and they both wished they had better clothes to wear. On the morning of the day of the celebration their father came to them and gave to each a full suit of the most exquisite clothing.

How happy the children were! Off came the old clothes and on went the new. The old ones were gathered up by friendly hands and taken care of, but the children gave no thought to what was done with them. If they had known that the old, cast-off garments had been burned up, or had

been buried in the ground, they would not have cared. Why should they care? They had new, beautiful clothes and their need for the old ones was gone. Now, children, our bodies are like clothes. We live inside of them, and, sooner or later, they get soiled by disease or torn by accident or worn out by old age. When such a time comes, God gives us new bodies. Shall we grieve when we get our new bodies? Certainly not. The day when we step out of our old bodies will be the happiest day of our lives if we are right with God. We won't care if they do bury this old body we have been living in.

Why should we care? We won't need it any longer and the new one will be so very much better in every way. Changing bodies is called dying. Death comes to everyone some time, but please remember that death is not a thing to be afraid of if you are God's child. People who do not die as soon as their loved ones do, have to grieve, because after a person has got into a new body he does not live any longer in the same world as we who still have the old bodies live in. He lives after that in heaven with Jesus, and the angels, and all the people who have died in the Lord before him. So, although you may have to suffer when your loved ones die and are parted from you, you need never suffer over the thought of dying yourself. Death is no worse than changing your dress.

THE GIFTS OF THE WISE MEN

"Behold there came wise men from the east."—MATT. 2:1.

MATERIALS: A picture of the maji. A cardboard star and camel and heart.

THE stars which we see shining in the heavens at night are very old. Long ago, before Jesus was born, certain wise men used to study the stars. Night after night they would sit gazing into the sky, thinking about God and trying to learn His will through the beautiful stars. These wise men knew the sky like a map; so when, one night, as they were gazing upward, they saw a great, strange star blaze out unexpectedly, they knew that it was a message from God telling them that a king was born. I have here a cardboard star which one of you may use as a pattern. Come to the blackboard and draw a star for us. Thank you, that is good. Are you not glad that we have something in our hearts which points us to Jesus as unerringly as the star pointed the wise men to Him?

Here is a pattern of a camel. Who will draw a camel on the board? Camels were used a great deal more than horses were in the East, so it was probably camels which carried the wise men when

they went upon their search for Jesus. Aren't you thankful that we do not have to travel miles and miles when we want to see Jesus? We know that He is always close beside us, all around us, in our hearts; and with our spiritual eyes we may see Him all the time. The wonderful star moved onward in the heavens and the wise men followed it until at last it paused above a house. Entering, the wise men found, lying in the arms of the lovely Mary, the Infant Saviour of the world. Kneeling at His feet they spread out before Him presents.

Noble wise men of the East! So eager were they to give worship and gifts to Jesus that they traveled miles and went through hardships and perhaps danger to find Him. They did not know the kind of a life Jesus was going to live. They did not know what He would have to suffer, nor how He would die for the sins of the world. We, who know so much of the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus, we who have the Bible to tell us of the loving words He said, and the promises He has left us, ought to be far more anxious to give gifts to Him than the wise men were. What shall we give to Jesus? I have one more cardboard pattern left. One of you may use it to draw a heart on the board. What Jesus wants is our hearts. There is nothing else that we can give Him. Let us give Him our whole hearts today.

THE VISIT OF THE SHEPHERDS

"And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger."—LUKE 2:16.

MATERIALS: A picture of shepherds and sheep. A shepherd's crook (one made of cardboard will do. If the class is not too large a small crook might be given to each child to take home.)

THE wise men of the East were not the only people who saw wonders on the night that Jesus was born. What do we see in this picture? Shepherds and sheep. A great many sheep are kept in the country where Jesus was born. You all know the story of the shepherds who were watching their flocks in the field that wondrous night. What an experience it must have been to them to see suddenly a heavenly glory glow all around them! In the marvelous golden light an angel stood, and how their hearts must have thrilled when he told them the glad news that a Saviour was born! Then, while their hearts bounded for joy, they saw the sky open, and up and down between heaven and earth, a radiant multitude of angels moved. Heavenly music filled the air and snowy wings glistened in the glorified light. Throwing aside their crooks, the shepherds started at once in search of Jesus.

Here is a crook such as shepherds use. The

keeping of their sheep was the livelihood of the shepherds. If they left their flocks, especially at night, there was danger that the sheep and lambs might be stolen by robbers or killed by wild beasts. Therefore when the shepherds cast away their crooks and went in search of Jesus they were casting away all the wealth they possessed. They were leaving everything for Jesus. But the shepherds were wise in their action. To find and worship Jesus is the most important thing that any one can do. Perhaps while these good men were finding and entering the stable where, in a manger, the little Lord Jesus lay, the beautiful angels took care of the sheep. Some people think they have no time to worship Jesus. Some boys and girls think they have too much work to do and others think they have too much playing to do to spare time for Jesus. Worship, for us, means spending a certain time in prayer, and in Bible study, and in the doing of kind deeds.

I am going to give each of you a crook to carry home with you to look at during the week. Let it remind you each day how the shepherds threw away their crooks, which represented all they had on earth, while they gladly worshipped Jesus. Then, when you have an opportunity to do a kind deed, throw aside your playthings or your common work long enough to do it. When the time comes for prayer and Bible study, throw aside whatever you are doing and worship Jesus.

PRESENTS FOR JESUS: A CHRISTMAS LESSON

“Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”—MATT. 25:40.

MATERIALS: A school book and a Bible. A saw and a hammer. A cross. A picture of the infant Christ. A Christmas tree.

God always loved His people, but before Jesus came into the world God was looked upon more as a great king and judge, who was to be feared than as a tender and loving Father. It is not always easy for God to make us understand Him, since His thoughts are so high above ours. We understand Him best through the life of Jesus. You know how much easier it is for you to understand lessons when your teachers use objects in teaching. Just so, we more easily realize that “God is love” when we look at the life that Jesus lived here upon earth than in any other way. What a life that was! This is Christmas, and we are all thinking about that wonderful night when the great star blazed out in the sky, and the angel voices sang, “Peace on earth, good will to men,” while in a lowly manger the little Lord Jesus lay on the hay.

But at Christmas, there is more to think about

than the birth of Jesus. Here before us is the picture of the infant Christ, which we have been looking at during all our opening exercises. Let me take it away and put on the table a school-book and a Bible. What part of Jesus' life do these things represent? Yes, His boyhood. Now, what do these make us think of? (Show saw and hammer.) Yes, His manhood. Jesus lived through a childhood and manhood of poverty and work, and then entered His ministry, and that led to—ah, this cruel thing that I will show you now. (Show cross.) God loved the world enough to give His only Son to die upon the Cross for sinners. Jesus loved us enough to die for us. What ought we to do in return for this wonderful love? During this week Jesus' birthday will come.

Let me tell you the story of a peculiar birthday party. Once there was a little boy who was going to have a birthday celebration. All his uncles, and aunts, and cousins were coming, besides many of his friends. The boy was quite excited over the thought of his party, and naturally he wondered what presents he would receive. Among so many relatives and friends who loved him he ought to be remembered quite generously, he reflected. At last the day of the party arrived. The guests came and a great celebration was enjoyed by all. The boy mingled with the crowd and considerable attention was paid to him; but great was

his surprise to discover that instead of he, himself, receiving the birthday presents, they were being bestowed upon others. Here he saw an aunt giving his uncle a present; there he discovered two cousins exchanging gifts. His friends were handling each other daintily tied parcels and, to his grief, he found himself almost forgotten. Was not that a peculiar birthday party? You would not have wanted one like it, would you?

Well, sad to say, Jesus' birthday is celebrated almost like that. The people of the world become very busy at Christmas time, giving each other gifts; so busy that nearly all of them forget or neglect to give anything to Jesus Himself. It is all right to give presents to each other on Jesus' birthday if we want to do so. Jesus likes to have us be kind and generous. But what must be His feelings to find Himself forgotten and neglected on that day? I can see by your faces that you are shocked at the idea. You do not want to neglect Jesus while you are giving and receiving gifts at Christmas time. Well, if you want to give Jesus something, what shall it be? You all know. Yes, give Jesus your hearts. Jesus would rather have our hearts than anything else we can give Him, and unless we do give Him the whole love of our hearts any other gifts we might offer Him would be of little value. But I know that some of you are thinking that you have already given Jesus your hearts, and you long to give Him something

else at Christmas time. You would like to give Him something you can see with your eyes and handle with your hands. I understand, and Jesus understands too, and He has made a way for you to do exactly this thing for Him. All who have Bibles turn to Matt. 25:40, and we will read together. This verse tells us that if we do anything for anyone who is weaker or poorer than ourselves it is the same as though we did that thing for Jesus. Doesn't that make it easy and delightful for us? See what I have here. (Bring forward the Christmas tree.) I thought that when you found out you could give Jesus birthday presents by giving them to some poor or sorrowful people you would all be eager to do it, so I have brought the tree and we will leave it here for you to put your presents on. There are many boys and girls who will not have a Christmas dinner unless Jesus sends it to them by you. So bring good things to eat and hang them on the tree. We will have a very happy time distributing our gifts and Jesus will take them as His presents from you to Him, although it will be some poor child who will use them.

Note.—Country or village Sunday schools might send their presents to a sunshine society in a city if there are no poor in the vicinity. A delightful plan for a class of girls is to dress one doll a month during the year, thus having twelve dolls to dispose of at Christmas time.

SHINING FOR JESUS

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven.”—
MATT. 5:16.

MATERIALS: Lanterns of different kinds.

COUNTRY boys and girls know what it is to walk at night beside their father or some grown person who is carrying a lantern. They see the circle of light waver, and shift, and move on and on before them and all around them. Here is a lantern of the ordinary kind. City children do not see them often, because the lanterns which light their steps are hanging over the streets or are fastened to posts by the sidewalks. A lantern is something which encloses and protects a light. A lantern is not a light itself. I might carry this lantern on a dark night without receiving any help from it at all, unless it were lighted. (Light the lantern.) It is only when a light is within it that a lantern is of use to the world. We are like lanterns in a way. Do you know who is called “The Light of the World”? (John 9:5). Yes, it is Jesus. If people want to be of use in helping to shed abroad the beautiful light of Jesus they must become lanterns. We are not lights in ourselves. There is not enough natural goodness in

any of us to cause us to shine in a dark world, and thus help the people who are losing the right way. But if we have Jesus dwelling in our hearts His light will shine through our lives, as the light in this lantern shines through the glass.

There are many kinds of lanterns. This kind in my hand is the most common. It is used in the ordinary walks of life. Farmers take one when they go out to milk in the winter. Boys carry one when running errands. People light their steps to store, or church, or neighbouring houses with lanterns like this, so hardly a family is without one. How beautiful it is to be the kind of a Christian who sheds the light of Jesus when about the ordinary work of everyday! Here is a dark lantern. I will light it. There, as I turn it toward you, you see the light within, but it is only through one opening that the light escapes, and, see, I can close even that opening. This lantern reminds me of the people who are Christians only on Sundays or some such special occasions. How much better it is to have our lives open on every side, so that the light of Jesus may flow out every day, no matter what company we are in or what we are doing.

Here is a flashlight. A flashlight is a sort of modern lantern. When you want to see a gas meter, a watch, a keyhole or something for a minute, you press a little button—so—and a light will shine out. A flashlight is useful in many ways, but I would not like to be the kind of a

Christian who reveals the light of Jesus only in sudden flashes, when pressed by someone else. There are people who, if you talk to them upon a subject which moves them deeply, will let fall a remark which shows that they have the light of Jesus glowing in their hearts, but on all ordinary occasions no one would suspect that they were Christians. How much more admirable is the Christian represented by the first lantern we talked about.

There is a kind of lantern which probably none in this room has ever seen. I mean the kind of lamp which shines, clear and bright, high in the top of a lighthouse. It's splendid beams fall far out upon the waters of the ocean and, during storms, many people's lives are saved by its brightness. I hope that some day many of the boys and girls in this room will be the kind of Christians represented by the lighthouse lantern. I hope some will be preachers, sending the rays of Jesus' light out over the seas of trouble which flood many people's souls. I hope some will be missionaries in foreign lands, sending the beams of divine light into the darkness of heathen countries.

There is the magic lantern, or stereopticon. No doubt you have all seen pictures thrown by such a lantern upon a screen. There is nothing beautiful about the stereopticon itself, but the pictures thrown by it may be beautiful in the extreme. Neither are the pictures a part of

the lantern. The pictures are inserted into the lantern by the operator. It is possible for a Christian to be so transparent, and to be filled with so great an abundance of the light of Jesus, that the great Operator, God, can put into that Christian's mind beautiful pictures which he can throw upon some great screen for the world to look at. It might be the screen of preaching, or of writing, or of beautiful living.

Let us be lanterns. Let us be common, ordinary lanterns, if that is all we have the chance to be, or let us be lighthouse lanterns or stereopticons, if God gives us the power. Let us at least not be dark lanterns, nor lanterns that have to be pressed to reveal light. The light of the world is Jesus. Let us ask Him to dwell within us, and light up our lives, so that we may be lanterns for Him.

GOD'S WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

“Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?”—ISA. 40:12.

MATERIALS: A yard stick, a quart cup, a pair of scales, a peck measure and bushel basket.

I HAVE a yard-stick in my hand. When we go to the store to buy cloth the merchant measures the goods off by the yard, does he not? Here is a quart cup. You also see peck-measures, bushel-baskets and scales. Almost everything we buy is weighed and measured for us by salesmen. Sometimes if you ask a little child how much he loves you he will say that he loves you “bushels.” Can people really measure love in bushels or quarts? Could we weigh air in these scales or measure gladness or sorrow by this yard-stick? No, we do not weigh such things. But turn, in your Bibles, to Job 28:25 and to Isa. 40:12, and let us see some of the things that God weighs and measures. How small we feel when we consider that God weighs the winds and holds the waters in the hollow of His hands! How insignificant we feel, yet how safe! Of course we need not be afraid of cyclones nor of storms on the water since to God, our loving Father, the wind and the

water are just small things which He can control without effort.

No accidents can happen. Nothing will occur except that which God allows, and so, even though to our judgment, the things which sometimes occur, seem to be calamities, they really will work out for the good of the persons concerned, if those persons are God's people. When we see a storm coming we can say, "I will not be afraid because my heavenly Father measures the winds and the waters and He will allow only what is good for His children, of whom I am one. If I get hurt or killed He will take care of me, because He loves me and I love Him." Nothing can really harm a Christian. The verse also tells us that God measures the dust of the earth, and weighs the mountains and hills in a balance. How wonderful God is! One's brain fails to comprehend His greatness. His goodness is as big as His greatness. John 3:34 tells us that God gives not His spirit by measure. Eph. 4:7 says that God gives us His grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. The gift of Jesus Christ, which is the gift that God gave to the world, is a gift too great to be measured by human beings. It is immeasurable. Only God could have been capable of making such a gift. If God is willing to give us grace according to the same measure as the gift of Christ we can see that we may have all we can possibly need or hold of grace.

I have here a pair of scales such as you see in grocery stores. One time a wicked king by the name of Belshazzar was told by Daniel that, because of his wickedness, God had weighed him in the scales and found him wanting. You see how these scales work. In this place you put the article to be weighed, and here you put the weights until you make the two ends balance. Suppose God were going to weigh the goodness of you and me. Suppose he put our goodness into the scales like this (Put in scales some light article) and tried to balance it against His goodness. (Place heavy weight on other end of scales.) Our goodness would be found to be so light that the scales would not be affected by it at all. The goodness of all the people in the world put together in one end of the scales would be but a feather's weight compared to a mountain's weight if God's goodness were put in the other end. When the time comes for us to be "weighed" we may be found "wanting," as Belshazzar was, if we have nothing more to put into the scales than our own goodness.

But we have something more. We have Christ's goodness to put in (place in scales an article which will make ends balance), and His goodness will make the scales balance. When we are weighed we can say, "I know that I am sinful myself, but for Jesus' sake save my soul," and we shall not be found "wanting" (Acts 13:39). God's weights and measures differ from men's

weights and measures. Here on earth we may use our little yard-sticks and quart cups and bushel baskets and make each other pay for all goods received. We shall be doing right, too, as long as we are honest in our weights and measures. But let us always remember that God's measures are bigger than ours, and also that His scales are capable of marvelous weighing powers for our benefit, when we count Christ into the weighing.

THE BEATITUDES

MATT. 5:1-13.

MATERIALS: A blackboard; chalk. Draw a circle in the center of the board in which write the words, "Blessed are." Draw lines from the circle to the edges of the board, dividing it into eight divisions.

ONE day Jesus sat upon a mountain with His disciples around Him and preached a sermon. A great multitude had been following the Saviour, and they were now privileged to hear the greatest sermon which was ever preached in the world. You will find it in the fifth, sixth, and seventh chapters of Matthew. Jesus opened this sermon by uttering what have since been named "The Beatitudes." Some children call these beautiful verses "The Blessed," and every one ought to learn them. Here on the board we have the words "Blessed are," and I am going to let each class (or each pupil if this talk is given in a class) repeat (or read) a beatitude and write a few words of it on the board.

Let us hear the first one. Now write, "Poor in spirit" in that first division on the board. To be poor in spirit does not mean that one has no spiritual riches. In fact, the more perfect a person becomes the poorer he will consider himself in

spirit, although he may have many Christ-like traits. The closer a person gets to God the more plainly he can see God's perfection, and then he sees his own faults, and, in comparison with the whiteness of God's perfection his faults look so black that he becomes humble and "poor in spirit." The people who are not close enough to God to appreciate His perfection do not realize how black their own faults are, and so they do not feel "poor in spirit."

What is the second beatitude? Write, "They that mourn" on the board in the second division. There are many causes for mourning. Sorrow touches every one, even little children. Trouble, pain and death, and, worst of all, sin, causes mourning.

Write "The Meek," in the third division. Meek people are not always the ones who inspire our admiration, and yet a meek child is the one who does not fly into a rage at the slightest provocation, thus spoiling games and creating a disturbance wherever he goes. One does not have to be cringing and servile to be meek. A meek person simply does not have too high an opinion of himself; is humble and mild, not easily provoked, reasonable and gentle, and easy to get along with.

Write "Those who hunger for righteousness," in the fourth place. Some people are always hungry for pleasure, others for riches, and others

are hungry for revenge and crime. But Jesus says that the people who hunger for righteousness are the blessed ones. Righteousness is uprightness, justness, Godliness, holiness. Righteousness is not a disposition one is born with. It is a state of character one has to acquire by long-continued, constant obedience to God's will.

In the fifth place, write "The Merciful." This word requires no explanation. We all know and love the kind of child who is quick to see and relieve, if possible, the sufferings of every animal, bird and even insect that he sees. Such a child also forbears from hurting children younger and weaker than himself. "Blessed are the merciful," said Jesus.

"The Pure in Heart" is the sixth. It is possible for people to live a clean, pure life as far as human beings can see, and yet have a heart that is full of evil and impurity. Such a case is not usual, however. "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." A good man, out of the good treasure of his heart, bringeth good things, but an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth evil things." (Matt. 12:34, 35.) But for policy's sake, and because of deceitfulness many people speak kindly with their tongues when their hearts lack the love their words express. God sees the heart.

In the seventh, write "The Peacemakers." As there are many people who go around creating

discord and strife wherever they are because of their own unquiet spirits, so there are lovely people whose very presence brings peace because of the sweetness in their own souls. One of the most beautiful missions a child can perform for Jesus is to make peace between playmates who are quarrelsome. But first that child must have an abiding peace in his own heart. Such peace is the gift of the Holy Spirit and is only enjoyed when the Holy Spirit lives in the heart.

In the last division, write "Those persecuted for righteousness' sake." Jesus did not say that all the people who are persecuted in the world are blessed. People are persecuted for many reasons besides righteousness. But if a person bears hardship, ridicule or any kind of persecution for Jesus' sake he has cause to be exceedingly glad.

All of these beatitudes close with something beautiful. Read what we have on the board now. Blessed are "The poor in spirit," "They that mourn," "The meek," "Those who hunger for righteousness," "The merciful," "The pure in heart," "The peacemakers," "Those persecuted for righteousness' sake."

Why are the poor in spirit blessed? It is not the people who think they are good, and wonderful, and more important than common folks who belong to the kingdom of heaven. It is the ones who think little of themselves, who are humble and "poor in spirit." God can give the Kingdom

of Heaven to them because they take it like a little child.

They that mourn are blessed because the comfort which God gives even here on earth is so sweet, that it makes the mourner have a certain kind of happiness even in the midst of his pain. If this comfort is felt so sweetly on earth, what will be its sweetness in heaven!

The meek are blessed because they shall inherit the earth. We do not know what the new earth will be like, but it will not be the grasping, selfish people, who strive to reach the high places, who shall inherit it. God will take care of the gentle, mild people.

If we are hungry it is very blessed to be filled. God does not promise that those who are hungry for money or for pleasure shall be filled, but He promises that all of us who want holiness, godliness, goodness shall have all of it that we can hold, and goodness brings happiness to us.

The merciful shall obtain mercy. We all sin and crave mercy of God, but if God sees us mistreat others and torment poor dumb creatures what can we expect of Him when we pray for mercy? Let us never forget that God knows when, and why, even a tiny sparrow falls.

The pure in heart shall see God. The wicked people imagine that they see wickedness in everybody around them. They judge others by themselves. The purer a person's heart becomes the

more able he is to see good in others. One who is very poor in spirit, very meek and filled with righteousness can actually see God here on earth. Of course they see Him in a spiritual sense, and not with their physical eyes. But when one who is pure in heart moves out of this physical body into his spiritual body he shall see God face to face and live with Him forever in heaven. No one who is impure can see God.

God is the maker of peace. He sent Jesus into the world to bring peace on earth. Therefore when people not only live in peace with God and all the world themselves, but also work to make peace between others and strive to reconcile them to God and all their fellow beings, they are so blessed as to be called the children of God.

Why are we told to "rejoice, and be exceedingly glad" when we are persecuted for righteousness' sake? The prophets who were persecuted before us grew so saintly through their persecution that they are now enjoying a wonderful reward in heaven, and the persecution they endured on earth seems only something that it was a great privilege for them to have suffered. It is a great honour to endure persecution for Jesus' sake.

POWER

“But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you.”—ACTS 1:8.

MATERIAL: A picture of a trolley car.

Do you like to ride on street cars? How useful a car is! It carries men and women to work and brings them home when they are tired at night. It takes people to weddings and to stores, and to the homes of their friends. It takes children to school and carries sick people to doctors' offices. Day after day it runs through a city, benefiting mankind. A life should be like a street car. Your life and mine should be a help each day to the people who know us. What makes the street car go? Electricity. Yes, here is a picture of the trolley which connects the car with the electric wire above it. A car is big and heavy. If a driver were told to take the car to a certain place, and was ignorant about the trolley, how soon would he get the car there? He might push and pull forever, but he would make no headway. But as soon as that little trolley is adjusted a great power moves the car easily along the track and all the driver has to do is to direct its course.

As you try to run your life through this world

you will find that it is not an easy task unless you get help from a power higher than yourself. There are great and wonderful things to be accomplished and you boys and girls, I know, want to do big things. Even the little things of life are too hard for us at times. Did you ever try to keep yourself free from sin, for just one short day? What must we have if we would make our lives helpful and beautiful? We must have a power that will run these lives for us as the electricity runs the street car, and that power is God; the Holy Spirit of God dwelling in our hearts. With Him for the power, we have only to direct our lives according to the course laid out in the Bible and we shall succeed. When we see a hard place in life looming up ahead of us, and we think, "Oh, I can't live through that trouble," we can remember the wonderful power of God. If we see a duty we ought to perform and we think we cannot do it, we can say, "No, I can't, but the Holy Spirit can do it for me." Nothing that we ought to do or become is impossible for us if we are connected with God.

What is it that connects us with God as the trolley connects the car with God? Faith. One day Peter had so much faith that he walked upon the water, but when suddenly his faith failed he began to sink (tell the story graphically). If the trolley slips from the wire you know how quickly the car stops running and how dead it is until the

trolley is in place again. Do we want the power of God? Suppose two street cars, strong, perfect, beautiful, were made. Suppose one ran, day in and day out, for years; sometimes having to be repaired; gradually growing older and older until it finally wore out. Suppose the other stood in one place always; never carrying people about; keeping shiny and new in appearance, but never being of real use in the world. Which car would you prefer to be? Not one of us wants to live a useless life. Let us lose no time in connecting ourselves with God, or, if we are already connected, let us be careful to keep our trolley on the wire.

CHARACTER

“And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried.”—ZECH. 13:9.

MATERIALS: Stamps and coins of different kinds. Scales.

LAST Sunday I asked you to bring stamps and coins from your collections, for us to talk about today, and I see quite a number here. (Show the coins and let the owners tell what countries they came from.) Money has been used for centuries. Before the ancient nations learned to coin gold and silver they used to weigh it. Money is weighed in Asia and some other places now by people who do not wish to be cheated. Let us see if there is not a difference in coins. Here are two American quarter-dollars. (Or select any other kind of money, only have one coin thin and worn.) Let us weigh them. Ah, this thin one, we find, does not contain as many grains of silver as the other. It is the amount of precious ore in a coin that determines its value. Another, and more severe, method of testing coins is by applying acid to them. The acid eats into the metal, showing just how much the coins are worth.

People are something like coins. There is much

that is pure and precious in their characters, but it is mingled with much that is worthless, as gold and silver are mingled with dross in a coin. God would like to see His people so pure that there was no dross whatever in their characters. He weighs people. You remember how Daniel said to the wicked king Belshazzar, "Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting" (Dan. 5:27). Belshazzar was like this thin coin; there was not enough good in him. God also tests people as He tested Abraham when He ordered him to make a burnt offering of his son Isaac (Gen. 22). Our hearts thrill when we remember how nobly Abraham stood this test, which was surely an acid test. We must never be afraid when temptations and trials come to us. No matter how hard they are to bear, we may know that we shall be able to endure them, because God has promised never to let anything come to us that is too hard for us to bear (1 Cor. 10:13). These hard things only mean that God is trying to get the dross out of our characters so that we may be pure gold.

See these gold pieces? Bright as they are, still there is some dross in them. If a chemist should take them and put them into a dish called a crucible and put the crucible into an intensely hot fire, these coins would melt and the pure gold would be separated from the dross. The Bible says (Zech. 13:9; Mal. 3:2, 3) that God will refine his people as the chemist refines gold and silver in the fire.

It is a very beautiful thing for us to know when trials come to us, as they do to all, that they do not come because our Heavenly Father is angry with us, but because He loves us so much that He is trying to take the impurity out of us and make us like pure gold. (Job 23:10.) We cannot always know which of the people we meet are pure and true. Probably we never meet anyone who is absolutely pure. I think God takes folks to heaven when they reach that state. Most Christians here on earth are like these gold and silver coins; very good, but still with some dross in them. Occasionally we meet someone like this. (Show counterfeit coin.)

What is the matter with that piece of money? It is counterfeit. It is false, pretending to be a good coin and deceiving people. It looks as good as the other coins, and so some hypocrites may deceive human beings for awhile, but they never can deceive God for one second (1 Sam. 16:7). A hypocrite is a person to be pitied, because the pleasure he gets from his hypocrisy lasts but a short time (Job. 20:5). It is a blessed fact that there are but few counterfeit Christians in the world compared to the number of true ones, just as the coins that ring true (ring a good coin) greatly outnumber the counterfeit ones. Sometimes people who wish to find fault with religion point out counterfeit Christians as samples of God's work, but to do so is as unfair as it would

be for me to hold up this counterfeit coin as a sample of the United States mint. God does not make hypocrites any more than the United States makes counterfeit money.

We must not forget our stamps. Here are many familiar ones, and some that are curious and unusual. A postage stamp, when affixed to an envelope, shows that the postal charge for carrying the letter inside the envelope has been paid. If a letter is mailed without a stamp it either goes to the dead-letter office or back to the sender, or the one to whom it is addressed must send a stamp to be put upon it. Children, we want to reach our destination—our home which is in heaven. Our fare to that place has been paid. It was paid by Jesus when He died upon the Cross. He died for all, but it is only those who have His stamp upon them who will be carried safely home (Rev. 22:4). That stamp is an invisible mark which God sets upon those who accept His salvation. It is free to all. We can have it for the asking. Without it we are liable to go to the place of the lost. We do not want to die. When the time comes for us to leave this earth we want to be carried safely to the presence of Jesus, there to live in happiness for ever. Let us not fail to surrender our lives to Him that He may set His stamp upon us.

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